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Why Gordon Brown has money to spend PAGE 18

Erica Wagner samples the new British Library
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'Domesday survey' lists treasures

Go-ahead for Whitehall sale of assets

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ALL government departments will be allowed to sell their assets and go into business as commercial enterprises under proposals unveiled by the Treasury yesterday.

Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, published a 550-page *National Asset Register* listing the land, buildings, equipment and art owned by the Government. It gave no overall valuation for the assets, but Treasury sources believed it was at least £300 billion.

From next April departments will be able to sell assets of a maximum single-item value of £100 million and retain the money. The value of total sales for any financial year may not be more than 3 per cent of a department's overall spending and the money can be used only to finance capital spending — such as investment in buildings — but not to boost its current running costs.

If departments gamble on a commercial venture by renting out their land, houses or office space, they will be able to keep the profits. However, Mr Darling said last night that the Government could decide at any time to transfer resources from one department to another.

The register, dubbed the "Government Domesday Book", disclosed that Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, presides over the biggest treasure trove of historic buildings, landmarks and works of art, including the National Gallery, the Government Art Collection, the Royal Parks

and the BBC. The department, which admits to a modest 4.75-acre landholding north of St Pancras Station in London, also owns five heritage assets: Trafalgar Square, part of Osborne House, Marble Arch and Wellington Arch. And Mr Smith is responsible for keeping the pigeons off St London statues.

The Foreign Office owns 126 embassies, 157 ambassadorial residences and 1,054 houses and flats for diplomats. It also owns 94 other properties such as tennis courts, garages, guardrooms and stores.

But the report said that the great majority of the Foreign Office's heritage assets were held in 26 major posts "where the buildings are of exceptional historic and architectural interest".

There were some surprises in the register. The Defence Ministry, owns a church, St George's at Biggin Hill, south-east London, as well as 709 works of art and 226 antiques.

The Scottish Office owns 34 offices and homes, ranging from 28,000 square yards at Victoria Quay in Leith, Edinburgh, to a wooden hut at Scorrybreck in Fortree.

Agriculture has only one combine harvester and two lawnmowers, but its lack of rural commitment is made up by the Transport Department, which has 165 Old English long-horned cattle.

Among the ideas in Whitehall last night for departmental business interests were museums to exhibit national treasures, an Army theme park, private sports clubs on

government land or more car parks. The Education Department may even publish school textbooks and timetables.

Mr Darling said that the Treasury intended keeping a firm control on all commercial activity and would be maintaining "a watchful eye" on departmental decisions to sell any buildings, land, equipment, furniture or paintings and antiques.

He said the Government was not about to embark on a sell-off of national treasures and denied he was selling the family silver. He added: "This is not a sales catalogue and there are no price tags on individual items. This is an attempt to make it easier for departments to deal with their assets more efficiently, just like businesses do."

He said that the purpose of the register was to be open with the public about the extent of government assets and to allow greater public access to them. "There are many heritage items that the Government holds for the nation in perpetuity. Now that all the assets are out in the open, the public can put pressure on ministers to be able to view these assets."

He confirmed that ministers would not be selling anything bequeathed to the nation.

Mr Darling accepted that the Treasury had to set an example and that he had already inquired whether the department really needed the use of fork-lift trucks.

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Full details, page 6

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Never-Never Land welcomes 'old-age traveller'

It was John Wilkinson (C. Ruislip Northwood) who began the trail which led to the arrival in the chamber of Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster) — who sat down on the wrong side. Mr Temple-Morris has left the Tory party and yesterday crossed the floor.

Labour staged the event magnificently.

Mr Wilkinson's question was about refugees. Laurence Robertson (C. Tewkesbury) wanted to put ministers straight we were not talking "about New Age Travellers, but old-age travellers".

At the word "new," Dennis Skinner jerked upright. The unconstructed Labour MP for Bolsover is everything new Labour

hate, and the feeling is mutual. "New Labour, new traveller," he spat. A bearded wraith of a junior minister, George Howarth, spat back he trusted "old-age traveller" did not mean Skinner.

Hardly. Three months short of his 60th birthday, Peter Temple-Morris, his hair soft and snowy-white as a goose's breast, travelled south across the bar of the House, then travelled west, on to the Labour benches.

A Prime Ministerial Statement had just begun. Drowned by cheers from behind him, Blair grinned maddeningly.

The interruption was no accident. Rumours of the moment at which he would arrive had been circulating for hours. Temple-Morris

knew exactly where to go. As if by miracle, a solid phalanx of Labour MPs opened like the Red Sea to swallow the newcomer into a Temple-Morris-sized gap between Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Wokington) and Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire NE).

The cheers, and Mr Blair's smirking grin, continued.

Shaking hands, Temple-Morris became instantly engrossed in friendly conversation: a chat for which Campbell-Savours seemed prodigiously prepared and from

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

real poise, batting every objection airily and fluently aside. His timbre, hand-movements — his whole bearing — reek of power. His voice breathes command. It is only that grin still lets him down.

Rereading J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan* recently, I was struck by the parallels between Tony Blair and Peter Pan, and between the British public and Peter's number one fan, Wendy. It was Wendy who made a young man of Peter by attaching him to his own shadow...

"...and now he was jumping about in the wildest glee. Alas, he had already forgotten that he owed his bliss to Wendy... How clever I am," he crowed rapturously, "oh, the cleverness of me!"

It is humiliating to have to confess that this conceit of Peter was one of his most fascinating qualities. To put it with brutal frankness, there never was a cockier boy.

But for the moment, Wendy was shocked...

"Wendy," he said, "don't withdraw, I can't help crowing when I'm pleased with myself."

With Temple-Morris comfily behind him, his backbenchers cheering him, the Tories scowling and the press writing it down, our modern Peter Pan couldn't help crowing.

His Tinker Bell, the Minister without Portfolio, was nowhere to be seen: Mr Mandelson had flown away to scatter magic dust over crowds of journalists.

ERIK JOHANSEN/REUTERS

Gallery charges likely to spread

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

LABOUR'S hopes of helping Britain's most prestigious national museums and galleries to scrap entry charges are expected to fail because of a Treasury squeeze on cash.

Ministers are preparing for a climbdown from the pledge made by Labour spokesmen in Opposition that free opening would be a priority in government. And big national galleries are warning the Government that unless more money is found they will have no option but to charge the public.

Within the next two weeks Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, will announce the results of an internal review aimed at improving access to museums and galleries and covering the question of charges. But in what appeared to be a concerted move to lower expectations, ministers made clear yesterday that, irrespective of any statements made by frontbench spokesmen in Opposition, Labour did not promise free entry to museums and galleries in its election manifesto.

Officials described a statement by Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, in June as "we do not want anyone to be charged entry to museums and galleries" as an aspiration rather than a pledge that the Government would ensure that there would be no charging. A government source said: "It is inconceivable that the Government could provide all the money to subsidise free entry."

It is thought that Mr Smith's department would have to increase its £200 million museums budget by 20 per cent in order to scrap charges — a non-starter in today's austere climate on spending encouraged by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Mr Brown, who today presents his first pre-Budget report to the Commons, has gone out of his way to warn ministers that an apparent improvement in the national finances does not mean that they can exceed the budgets inherited from the Tories.

'Digging out' of foxes banned on MoD property

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JAMES LANDALE

HUNTS have been banned from "digging out" foxes on Ministry of Defence land, the Government announced last night.

As pro and anti-hunting campaigners began to mobilise for Friday's crucial vote in the House of Commons, John Spellar, the Defence Minister, said that all hunts had been told that the Ministry as the landowner would not allow digging out of foxes on the defence estate.

The Government has upset anti-hunting campaigners by allowing existing hunts to continue on Ministry of Defence land for the time being, although it will grant no new hunting licences. Last night's move will please opponents of fox-hunting in the run-up to a debate in which they are certain to gain a massive majority on Friday. Digging out of foxes is regarded by critics as one of the most objectionable aspects of the pursuit.

Although Mike Foster's Wild Mammals (hunting with Dogs) Bill is not expected to become law because the Government is not granting extra time for it to go through, there is a growing belief among Labour MPs that hunting will be outlawed during the present Parliament.

Ministers may allow an amendment ban hunting on a Government Bill during a later parliamentary session or they may back another private Member's Bill after they have acted to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The fear of a lengthy confrontation with the Lords has discouraged the Government from granting time to Mr



John Spellar: all hunts have been informed

Foster's Bill. But it now appears to accept that a ban on hunting at some stage during the present Parliament is inevitable.

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, said yesterday that any Government legislation banning hunting was likely to face stiff opposition if it reached the Lords. "There is quite a chance that it would be rejected," he said.

He insisted that the Tories would allow a free vote on the issue and would not summon any backwoodsman peers to block the move.

But he made clear that some peers would be prepared to fight a hunting ban even if it speeded up the Government's plans to scrap hereditary peers' voting rights.

"Some will see it as dying in a fine cause," he said.

Lord Cranborne also expressed his own opposition to any hunting ban. "It is absolutely outrageous when a ma-

jority becomes an oppressor," he said.

He warned that many ordinary law-abiding people were so angry that they felt they would be prepared to go to prison over the issue.

"There are many people who feel that way and I rather feel that way myself," he said. "People are extremely angry." The hunting lobby admits that Friday's Bill is likely to be backed by many MPs but they are keen to prevent any momentum growing for a hunt ban later this Parliament.

More than 800 hunting enthusiasts last week descended on Westminster to urge their MPs to vote against Mr Foster's Bill.

In one of the largest mass lobbies in recent years, the Commons was flooded with countryfolk arguing that the move would harm the environment and cost thousands of jobs.

The demonstration was organised by the Countryside Alliance, a coalition of pro-hunting groups, which also launched an advertising campaign on 500 poster sites across London.

The poster, bearing the slogan: "The Countryside says NO to Foster's Bill", showed the 120,000 people who attended the Countryside Rally in Hyde Park on 10 July.

Pamela Morton, a spokesman for the Countryside Alliance, said: "The case for hunting is very persuasive when MPs and members of the public actually meet the ordinary people who support hunting."

It gets the debate beyond old stereotypes of what hunting is about."



Norway's annual gift to Britain, a Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square, is lifted from woods near Oslo after London's Lord Mayor, Ronald Raymond-Cox, helped to fell it

Broadcasting watchdog's new code aims to protect privacy

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

MEDIA EDITOR

suggesting that nine out of 10 people support the idea of a privacy law.

Lady Howe said the implementation of the new code on fairness and privacy, which has statutory backing, was the best way to balance two competing interests — the right to know and the right not to have privacy invaded without good reason.

In an approach also being taken by the Press Complaints Commission, the regulatory body for the newspaper industry, the broadcasting code requires that any infringement of privacy has to be justified by "an overriding public interest in disclosure of the information". The sort of

things the commission has in mind range from detecting crime and disreputable behaviour, to exposing misleading claims, to publicising significant incompetence in public office.

Some of the code's most detailed provisions are designed to make sure that contributors are dealt with fairly. Anyone asked to make a significant contribution to a programme should be told what it is about, why they have been contacted, what the general area of questioning will be and whether their contribution is going to be edited.

The commission made it clear yesterday that its code,

which comes into effect on January 1, must be reflected in the codes or guidelines of each broadcaster or regulatory body, such as the BBC and the Independent Television Commission.

□ The chairman of the Press Complaints Commission said yesterday that incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law would lead to an ineffective privacy law that would erode press freedom. Lord Wakeham, speaking during the committee stage of the Human Rights Bill, told the House of Lords: "Such law could never be as effective as self-regulation in safeguarding the rights of individuals."

LEGAL action to outlaw a new electronic smartcard method for people to pay their water bills was launched in the High Court yesterday after claims that the system leads to illegal disconnections and endangers public health.

Six local authorities, supported by 31 more, are challenging Ian Bryant, the director of water services, and two water companies over the controversial system designed for poorer households.

The authorities claimed that the devices fitted by Severn Trent and North West Water are

illegal because they allow the

companies to cut off supplies

to the most vulnerable without

Councils seeking to outlaw 'Watercards'

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

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The six authorities — Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham city councils, Lancashire County Council, and Tameside and Oldham borough councils — are seeking judicial review in a move to ban the budget payment "Watercard" system, which allows householders to pay for water as they use it by inserting a card into a control box.

referring them to the courts as required by the 1991 Water Industry Act.

In Birmingham this year 1,773 households with the pre-payment devices have been disconnected but only six have been processed through the county courts.

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IN BRIEF

Courts to listen to victims on sentences

Views on sentencing expressed by victims of crime will be passed to the Court of Appeal under reforms announced by the Home Secretary yesterday. Jack Straw outlined measures to improve the consistency of sentencing by the courts, including a new advisory panel which will take account of the views of victims through organisations such as Victim Support.

The Court of Appeal will also be placed under a new statutory duty to issue sentencing guidelines where appropriate.

No inquest

No fatal accident inquiry, Scotland's equivalent to an inquest, will be held into the death of Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP who committed suicide in July, it was announced yesterday. The decision had been taken after consultation with the dead man's family.

Church gifts

The Church of England is considering plans to repay student loans taken out by its newly ordained priests. While dioceses refuse to ordain men and women with debts, student loans are not considered by the Church an "impediment to ordination".

Photograph, page 26

Murder charge

Human remains found on a golf course in Stockport last month were those of Jamie Lavis, 8, police disclosed yesterday. Darren Vickers, 27, from Openshaw, Greater Manchester, who has already been charged with the boy's abduction, now faces a murder charge.

Green peace

Office plants can help to banish workplace stress, researchers at the University of Surrey claim. In a nine-month study the team found that staff surrounded by greenery showed significantly lower levels of stress than those surrounded by office equipment.

Homes go-slow

The growth in house prices has slowed to a 16-month low, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Only 30 per cent of surveyors questioned reported rising prices, the lowest number since August last year. Average prices rose 1 per cent in the last quarter.

Churchill sale

A black Austin 10, formerly owned by Winston Churchill, sold for £6,400 at a car auction at Sotheby's in London, 11 times the estimate. The 1938 car, sold by Churchill in 1950, was bought by an unnamed Swiss historical foundation, which plans to put it on show.

Mr X identified

A man who lost his memory was named yesterday by one of his four wives. Mr X, who suffered amnesia after being robbed, was told of his identity after his photograph was recognised by dozens of people. Cardiff police confirmed he is Barry Robinson, 47, of Leeds.

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Call 0800 500 363 quoting ref. 111111

Friends recall a

IN BRIEF

Courts to listen to victims on sentences

On sentencing, it will be passed by the Court of Appeal. Appeals are now to be heard by the Secretary of State, who has the power to impose sentences of up to two years. The new advisory panel includes former criminal lawyers such as Sir Michael Rutter.

No inquest

On the accident inquiry into the death of George Hogg, the late Lord Justice Brian, it was said, had been asked to consider whether it was appropriate

Church gifts

On the £100 million plan to take control of the Church of England's £1 billion investment fund, it was said, it will be decided whether to proceed with the proposal

Murder charge

On the murder charge against the Duke of York, it was said, he will be charged with the killing of his son, Prince William

Peace

On the peace deal between the IRA and the British government, it was said, the deal will be signed in Belfast on December 1

BBC backs down in fight over US rights

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE BBC yesterday made a costly High Court climbdown over a long-running dispute over who should profit from the American rights to the television detective series *Dalziel & Pascoe*.

The corporation, and its commercial arm BBC Worldwide, yesterday agreed to pay Portobello Pictures, co-producers of the series £500,000 and the legal costs of both sides which are likely to total around £250,000.

Portobello took the action for alleged breach of contract and misrepresentation following an attempt by the BBC, according to Portobello, "to avoid paying shares of revenue from the US broadcaster A & E

Mr Abraham said yesterday that dozens of BBC employees, including the two senior figures Will Wyatt and Alan Yentob, "were fully aware of the litigation and the BBC's efforts to deprive Portobello of a very substantial amount of income".

The Portobello managing director also alleged yesterday he had been told that outside lawyers had advised the BBC more than 17 months ago that it had no option but to meet Portobello's claim.

The second series of *Dalziel & Pascoe*, based on the novels of crime writer Reginald Hill, got an audience of more than 10 million — a 47 per cent share of the audience. Warren Clarke plays Dalziel, and Colin Buchanan his sidekick, Pascoe. A third series is nearly finished shooting.

After that Mr Abraham who says he owns the *Dalziel & Pascoe* rights is making it clear he would like to hear from other broadcasters.

■ Bob Quinn, member of the Dublin government-appointed group that oversees operations at Ireland's RTE TV and radio network, has temporarily stepped down, in protest at the level of pre-Christmas TV advertising offered at children.

It is believed that the contracts between Portobello and the BBC specify an actual percentage of revenues from foreign sales that the independent



Hunt for missing mother

BY STEWART TENDERL

FEARS are growing for the safety of a wealthy mother who vanished 13 days ago.

Gracia Morton, 40, of Kensington, West London, vanished after taking her four-year-old daughter to school in Notting Hill and visiting her estranged husband, an architect, who lives near by. Her car was left there.

Her family said her disappearance was completely out of character. Her daughter has been staying with her father and an aunt.

Mrs Morton, who grew up in Argentina, has two passports. Scotland Yard has made checks on airports.

Faux allegedly pulled a



Victoria Spencer, right, arriving at the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday with her friend Chantelle Collopy

Earl Spencer accused of affairs

Continued from page 1

TWO BRITISH nationals, Jeremy Posnansky, a British family law expert, told the court that it was likely that the Earl's adultery would have a bearing on the outcome of a divorce settlement in Britain.

Lady Spencer's lawyers argued that because the bulk of his assets are in Britain, the divorce hearing should be held in London.

They also pointed out that the couple had only intended moving to Cape Town for a few years and that their young daughters had been registered for British public schools.

As well as disputing the division of assets, the couple are suing for custody of their children.

The wife of a Cape Town businessman, Chantelle Collopy, with whom the Earl had an affair, is expected to be a key

witness and to give evidence against him. Lady Spencer arrived in court with Mrs Collopy, who occasionally patted her comfortably on the arm.

A spokesperson for him said later: "These are allegations that have been made by Lady Spencer's counsel and are strenuously denied by Lord Spencer, who will be pursuing them later in the hearing."

His lawyers are expected to argue that British law can be applied in South Africa and therefore the case can be heard in South Africa.

Since the estranged couple, who married in 1989, moved to South Africa over a year ago to escape media attention, they have mostly lived apart.

Earl Spencer has been linked to a string of beautiful women, the latest being Josie Boraine, a South African model. Although there have been re-

ports that the couple recently split they were seen together at a weekend charity function in Cape Town.

His estranged wife, Victoria, has been linked to a 26-year-old South Africa pharmacist whom she is said to have met at her local shopping centre in Cape Town.

The hearing continues today and is expected to run for at least one week.

Lady Spencer appeared at the Cape Town court wearing a beige dress suit and no make-up, and she appeared tired.

By contrast Earl Spencer, who was wearing a dark suit, appeared confident and chatted amicably with his lawyers before the hearing.

But when questioned about the divorce proceedings by reporters outside the court he refused to make any comment.

Rape victim in Owen Oyston trial 'was not so innocent'

BY LIN JENKINS

OWEN OYSTON, the millionaire chairman of Blackpool Football Club, yesterday claimed the teenager he was convicted of raping was not the innocent dependent and vulnerable person described at the trial.

In urging three Court of Appeal judges to quash his convictions, lawyers for Mr Oyston claimed she was a liar who, far from having no boyfriends at the time, had an affair in Crete and wrote a sexually explicit letter to the man, it was alleged.

Oyston, 64, yesterday urged

Lord Justice Phillips, Mr Justice Jowitt and Mr Justice Moses to quash his conviction for rape and indecent assault of the schoolgirl model, Anthony Scrivener, QC, said they had fresh evidence which could have destroyed her credibility in the eyes of the jury during the 18-day trial in Liverpool in May last year.

Elizabeth Underwood, her housekeeper at the home run for the agency models, says she recalled the girl, referred to as JH, bragging about a visit to a castle — the description she used for Oyston's country home, Cloughton Hall near Lancaster.

"She recalls JH describing in excited terms going up to the castle and having a look around. She was jubilant. The visit was on a previous day and she was far from being distressed," he said.

Ms Underwood had said she could hear her "bragging" although she made no mention of Oyston's name. Oyston, who is serving six years, was brought from Wymott jail in Lancashire to the Court of Appeal in London. He glanced occasionally at his wife, Vicki, who has fought to clear his name and has taken over as chairman of the football club.

Mr Scrivener said of the new evidence: "If one puts all the points together it is a different case from that presented at the trial."

A letter written in May 1992 to Jerome O'Malley, with

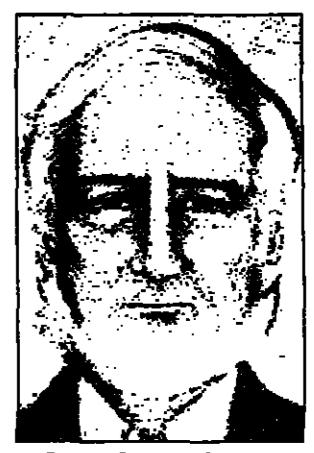
whom she had had a fling while on holiday in Crete, was sexually explicit. She wrote: "I hope you have some energy left because if you have by the time I have finished with you I'll not have because I will stay sober this time."

While it has never been established when the rape occurred, if it was before May, the letter suggested she had lied when saying it took a year to get over it. Mr Scrivener said: "The victim had said: 'I spent a year of my life trying to forget what happened. I hate everybody, I hate having sex. I started to hurt myself.'

Mr Scrivener said the letter painted a different picture. She had denied having any boyfriends at that time. He also questioned the view that she was "young, dependent and vulnerable" under the control of Peter Martin at the agency, who is now serving 20 years for sexual crimes.

Helen Grindrod, QC, for the Crown, said JH was in effect an abused youngster, already indecently assaulted and probably raped by her boss Martin at the time of the incident. She was taken after midnight 50 miles to Oyston's home, and made to have oral sex with him in the car. "In front was her boss who had been abusing her but had to persuade her it is normal."

The hearing continues.



Owen Oyston: he was jailed for six years

Husband 'killed wife after business failed'

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A PROPERTY developer whose business had collapsed killed his estranged partner as they packed after being forced out of their home, a court was told yesterday.

Susan Faux, a 46-year-old mother-of-three, who had changed her surname to that of her common-law husband, was hit 17 times with a hammer in her bedroom at Thimble Hall in Hexworthy, Devon.

William Faux, 48, who denies murder, was a property tycoon who had fallen victim to the 1990s recession. Exeter Crown Court was told yesterday that he had lost his companies and the family home, and that his partner had left him after a series of rows. The couple had been together for 29 years, although they were not married.

David Lane, QC, for the prosecution, said that the murderer happened as they were packing up their belongings before leaving the £300,000 house on Dartmoor.

Faux brought some jumpers into the bedroom and left them "in an untidy state". Mr Lane said: "She became annoyed and hit him in the face with a coat-hanger."

Faux allegedly pulled a

hammer from a shelf and hit his wife twice over the head. In the struggle she bit his finger but he came back into the bedroom and struck her over the head repeatedly.

Mr Lane said that Faux, who had already taken some amphetamines, then took some more pills and a carton of weedkiller that he had bought earlier and went off with the intention of killing himself. The couple's younger daughter returned home some hours later and found her mother's body on the bedroom floor with the hammer underneath her. Police were called and Faux was arrested hiding in a shed.

Mr Lane said: "He became prosperous through his own hard work and efforts. But in the early 1990s the recession hit him hard. His companies went into bankruptcy. People were owed money and court orders ordered him to sell Thimble Hall to recoup some of their money. In the last 12 months leading up to the incident he had been taking amphetamines and there had been constant rows. By April 7 he could take it no more. Seventeen days before she was killed she left home to live somewhere else."

The trial continues.

Faux allegedly changed his bloodstained shirt, washed himself, locked up the house and took the pills and weedkiller into a field to the shed. Mr Lane said Faux left a suicide note addressed to his daughters.

After the killing Faux allegedly

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The trial continues.

Friends recall a 'good' old Kray

Damian Whitworth on a benefit night in aid of getting out of jail

THE top-of-the-range Mercedes and Bentleys parked outside would give any passer-by the impression of a typical well-heeled crowd at the Ridge golf club in Kent enjoying a big night out. In fact it was the Mr Bigs' night out.

Friends, and those who might be called colleagues, of Charlie Kray gathered at the country club outside Maidstone for a benefit night for the elder brother of Ronnie and Reggie on Sunday night.

The least famous of the East End underworld trio was sentenced to 12 years last year for masterminding a £39 million cocaine deal. At 71, he faces the possibility of ending his days in jail

and the old gang are rallying round to raise money for his appeal.

More than 200 guests stumped up £100 a head for a ticket, and were then invited to make further donations inside. Brick walls disguised as men dissuaded those without a ticket from crossing the threshold. Grasses inside said that the buffet was delicious, the cabaret was performed by the Rockin' Berries and there was dancing into the early hours.

There was also a lot of hard talk in dark corners followed by solid hand shaking. Some shy guests slipped in and out through the back door.

But these days there are plenty of survivors from the Kray heyday who

wouldn't dream of skulking in the shadows. "Mad" Frankie Fraser and Tony Lambriani rubbed shoulders with the younger bloods.

Mr Lambriani, who organised the bash, declared it a success. "Charlie has lots of friends, many of whom do not believe that he was involved with smuggling cocaine," he said.

"This is a chance to get together and raise some money for his appeal and have a good night out at the same time. Charlie is an old man, and he got a long sentence for a crime he did not do. There is a good chance at his age he will finish his life inside."

"We want to get together the money to get him out."



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Mother stops IRA from using name of Bobby Sands

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER,
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT



THE elderly mother of the hunger-striker Bobby Sands has intervened to help prevent the rift between the IRA and Sinn Fein from deepening, republican sources said yesterday.

Rosaleen Sands, 73, is believed to have warned her daughter Bernadette against using the family's potent name to promote the dissidents' cause. "The mother was very adamant her son's name not be used," said one well-placed source.

Bobby Sands, who died in the Maze prison in 1981 after 66 days without food, is regarded by some as an IRA "martyr", and criticism of Sinn Fein's peace strategy from his youngest sister would have seriously embarrassed Gerry Adams.

Bernie Sands is one of several senior activists who recently quit the movement.

told New York's *Irish Voice* newspaper last week that "we as a family took a decision not to talk to the media many years ago... I have a business here to run and I want to get on with my business and I have nothing to say."

Without someone of Ms Sands's stature at their helm, the dissidents stand little chance of attracting much more support at this stage. On Sunday night Sinn Fein staged a huge, unprecedented rally in Belfast's Europa Hotel designed to dispel the reports of grassroots unhappiness.

The hotel was the target of numerous IRA attacks during the Troubles. On this occasion 1,000 packed into the chandeliered grand ballroom for an event almost as smooth as one of New Labour's, except for the burly bodyguards and the *Socialist Worker* salesman in the lobby. There was a plea for pace from Sinn Fein Youth and ovations for Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness.

She was tipped to become the group's spokeswoman, but her anticipated appearance on a New York republican radio station recently failed to happen.

Mrs Sands refused to talk to *The Times* when approached in the printing and T-shirt shop she runs in Dundalk, County Louth. However she



Ernest Jones, head teacher of Liangurig Primary School, who welcomed the Queen Mother's help towards buying two computers

Queen Mother repays 80-year-old debt

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

IT WAS 80 years ago and in the midst of war, but Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has never forgotten the affection her late husband felt for the Welsh village where he recuperated from tuberculosis.

In a gesture that has touched villagers, the Queen Mother has

helped to buy two computers for the 29 pupils who attend their tiny primary school. It was in September 1917 that the 21-year-old Duke of York, later to become King George VI, arrived in Liangurig in Mid-Wales. On the advice of doctors he spent three weeks recuperating in the country air after suffering from TB. His stay at Cloghafn Hall is re-

corded in the parish church. It was that remainder of the village's royal connection that prompted David Vaughan, head of governors at Liangurig Primary School, to write to the Queen Mother.

The school had already raised some money and was sent a cheque to make up the bulk of the £3,000. Ernest Jones, the school's head

teacher, said: "The Queen Mother's donation has allowed a small rural school to get this latest equipment, the same as any school in large cities."

The Queen Mother, then Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, married the Duke in 1923 six years after his Welsh sojourn, never expecting he would become king.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Disclosure is best reply to cash question

By PETER RIDDELL

THE recent discussion of party funding has been muddled and confused, in hasty response to the Ecclestone affair. The Neill (formerly the Nolan) committee has been asked to come up with a new blueprint, even though this has confounded most other western democracies. Just as with electoral systems, there is no ideal method of financing political parties. It all depends on the circumstances and what type of party system you want.

Sir Patrick Neill's committee, which meets on Thursday for its first official canter around the course, has first to define the nature of the problem. Is our present system unfair because one party, the Tories, has traditionally been able to raise more money than Labour and been able to out-spend it during campaigns? Or is the real problem that secrecy about donations has produced suspicions of influence peddling and favours in exchange for donations? The solutions are different.

My view is that the difficulties are more to do with disclosure than with inequalities in fund-raising and spending. Once a party raises a certain minimum amount, as Labour has in the past two elections, there is little evidence that additional sums make any difference to the outcome. It may be a comforting myth for Labour to believe that they were unfairly robbed of victory in 1992 by a burst of Tory spending. But that is nonsense. Our elections are cheap by international standards, and there are tight constraints on how much parties can spend. They are banned from buying radio and television time, which absorbs tens of millions of dollars in America. This is by far the most important constraint on party funding in Britain. Long may it continue.

The significant change in recent years has been the decline in traditional institutional sources of funding. Public companies have cut their political donations sharply in real terms, partly because they want to be less identified with any single party. The Blair leadership has wanted to reduce Labour's reliance on the unions, which anyway have less money to spend. Labour



Sir Patrick asked to provide a blueprint

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Sport chiefs urge tobacco rethink

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister will today come under pressure to extend Formula One's exemption from the tobacco sponsorship ban to all sports.

Tony Blair is meeting representatives from sports including snooker, darts, cricket and rugby who have been incensed by his decision to make Formula One a special case.

But Formula One is also stepping up its own campaign to ensure that the Government keeps to an indefinite exemption. Representatives of the sport are meeting government and EU officials.

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Lady and the truants who got clean away

David Charter reports on lives at

a crossroads as squeegee boys run into the minister who is introducing

a £10m plan for school drop-outs

A GANG of truants were cleaning car windscreens at a traffic lights when they decided that a chauffeur-driven limousine looked like a good prospect. They were wrong.

As the young boys set to work with their bucket and water, a rear window rolled down and the strong voice of Baroness Blackstone said: "I am the Minister for Education and Employment. Why aren't you at school?"

Lady Blackstone, who has special responsibility for disaffected youth and is regarded as the Government's leading educational theorist, thought that the boys were a good prospect for reform. But she was wrong, too. There was a "streetwise" response from one child, followed by a conversation that was cut short by the honking of drivers' horns when the lights changed.

The story of young lives at a crossroads was told by the minister yesterday at the introduction of the £10 million new-start scheme to "bring young people who have rejected education back into the fold". It includes 17 projects to

develop monitoring, guidance and teaching for school drop-outs aged 14 to 17, and a "second chance school" in Leeds for unqualified young adults to try again on academic or vocational courses.

Her personal attempt to put policy into practice came when a trio of "squeegee merchants" pounced on the ministerial Vauxhall Vectra at traffic lights on Holloway Road, North London. Lady Blackstone, Education Minister in the Lords, said: "My guess is that the three were primary school children. The youngest looked about ten and the other two looked 11 to 13. I suddenly thought, it is 11.30am."

She wound down her window before her driver had a chance to shoot the young

Home Secretary, criticised "the squeegee merchants who wait at large road junctions" when he spoke of a need to "reclaim the streets for law-abiding citizens".

Teaching unions said that the minister's experience showed the nature of the problem facing schools and colleges in motivating some pupils. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "It is a shame more ministers don't wind down their windows and see what is going on. She was lucky she received only oral invective. A teacher might have had the bucket of water as well."

Lady Blackstone, 55, has a PhD from the London School of Economics and was a director of education in the Inner London Education Authority. She was created a life peer in 1987, and has two grown-up children.

Her personal approach with the truants may have worked in the long run. There was not a squeegee in sight yesterday along the Holloway Road.

beggars. One boy's initial argument that they were on their way to school would not wash with the former Master of Birkbeck College.

"I got the most wonderful stories in an Irish accent, that his mother was penniless and he had to go out to work in the day in order for his family to eat," she said. "I thought he ought to have gone into politics straight away with a response like that. He was very articulate and streetwise, but clearly someone who, if he went back to school, was going to have a lot to offer."

"I wanted to talk to them for a bit longer, but there was a queue of cars behind hooting, who wanted to go on, and we just had to leave." Two years ago, Jack Straw, then Shadow



Baroness Blackstone yesterday. "There was a queue of cars hooting," she said

Student's killing heightens fears

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

STUDENTS spoke yesterday of their fear of rising violence around campuses in Manchester, after a Taiwanese man was stabbed to death by two muggers.

They ambushed the 30-year-old student in Whitworth Park about 10pm on Saturday. The man lost a huge amount of blood and died in hospital. Police are looking for a number of people in connection with the attack.

There has been an alarming rise in attacks on young people in the city centre and in the area of Manchester University and the Manchester Metropolitan University. There are more than 30,000 students in the city, and police are concerned that they appear an attractive target to muggers.

Andrew Ward, editor of a student newspaper, said: "Students are aware of the risks, but they are out and about in relatively dangerous areas. The park is in the heart of the university area. It is well-known for problems. It backs on to dodgy areas."

Headmaster took girl, 15, home to bed

By A CORRESPONDENT

A HEADMASTER who took a 15-year-old pupil to bed after inviting her to his home told a court that he had succumbed to temptation after 26 years of coping with schoolgirl crushes.

Alan Rainbow, 47-year-old bachelor, was sacked as head of a comprehensive school in South Wales after the girl confided in a friend, who then told her mother. Yesterday he admitted sexual assault and was jailed for 15 months.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that the girl telephoned and asked to see him. Keith Thomas, for the prosecution, said: "Rainbow picked her up in his car and dropped her off at the end of his street. He then went into his house, leaving the door open behind him. The girl followed him in a few minutes later."

"He offered her a cup of tea before he began to kiss her on the lips. Rainbow asked her if she wanted to come upstairs. She agreed and they went into the bedroom."

Mr Thomas said that Rainbow and the girl undressed and climbed into bed. They kissed and cuddled and the



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The test that should stop cancer errors

Researchers say new software will improve accuracy of cervical smear checks, reports

Ian Murray

A COMPUTER test for cervical cancer could save the lives of hundreds of women every year and cut the number of incorrect smear test results.

The analysis, which is based on assessing the density of blood vessels in tissue, could also be developed to give early warning of other cancers. Work on the test has been under way for two years at Nottingham City Hospital and should be widely available in five to ten years.

The research team has concentrated on a link between the number of blood vessels and the early stages of cervical cancer. Cliff Murray, the oncologist leading the research, said yesterday that they had found it was possible to detect early signs of a malignancy just by looking at the blood vessels in a piece of tissue.

The study so far has involved examining cervical tissue taken from biopsies or hysterectomies from 70 women who had been recalled after their cervical smear tests apparently showed abnormalities. Of these, 41 had warning signs for cancer, 13 had cancer and 16 were disease-free controls.

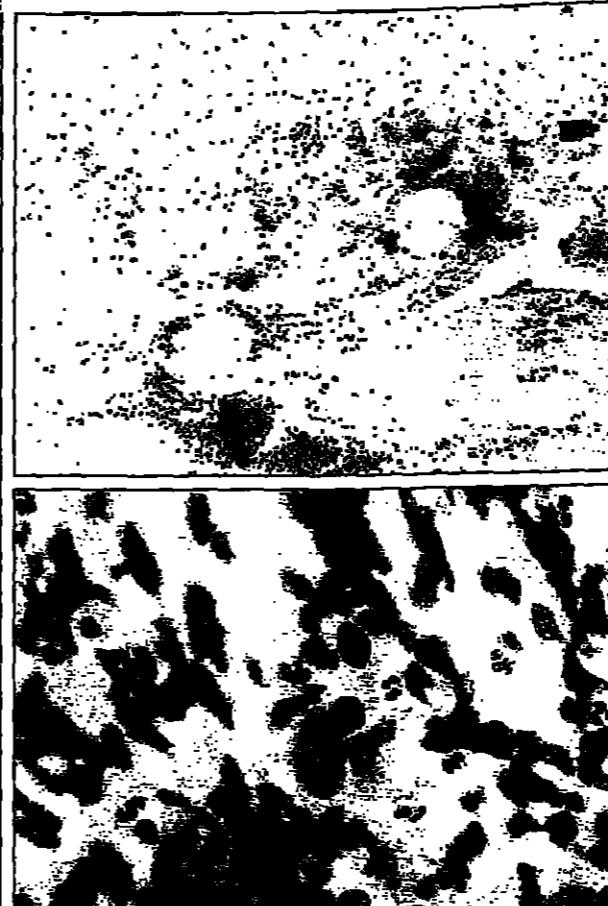
In a blind survey, the team recorded the blood vessels in each of the samples. They compared the findings with the known condition of each woman. The results showed that those with the highest blood vessel density all had cancer and those with the lowest density were normal.

In the cases between the extremes, those with higher counts had higher degrees of premalignant tumour growth. The women were treated and four of them, who had a recurrence, were all found to have a particularly high blood vessel density.

Dr Murray said that the cancers were generic and there were common factors with breast and colo-rectal malignancies. This should make it possible eventually to use similar screening tests to give early warning of other cancers.



Janet Clare, of the Royal London Hospital, examining a slide. Staff are looking for cells that betray potential abnormalities, top, or that are already cancerous, below



findings clearly established the link between the number of blood vessels and cancer, but so far it was necessary to do a biopsy to discover the density of them. The next challenge was to find a way of obtaining the same information from the smear test itself.

A protein was already well-known to signal that the density of blood vessels was increasing and once it became possible to isolate it so that a computer could recognise it, then smear tests could be analysed on what would amount to a conveyor belt. All those with abnormalities would be spotted by the computer and all the others cleared.

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Research, funded by the

SMEAR TESTING AND CERVICAL CANCER	
• 4.5 million smears tests a year, cover 80% of female population; involving 4 million women aged 20-64	
• Only 22% of population were tested in 1988	
• Mortality from cervical cancer is falling by 7% a year	
• In 1988 there were 16 deaths per 100,000 women, compared with 11.2 in 1993	
• 2,500 cases each year of cervical cancer. Of 1,300 who die, half have never had a smear test	
• Smear tests cost £130 million a year - £25.50 a woman	
• Health authorities pay GPs on the proportion of women in their practices whom they test, not per smear test	
• Health authorities buy cervical screening from local hospitals where the laboratories are based	

Cancer Research Campaign and the women's health charity Wellbeing is now to be widened to analyse tissue from another 200 women in order to discover more about the link between blood density and cervical abnormalities.

Gordon McVie, director-general of the cancer campaign, said the software was clearly already worked: "We

have a great system on paper and when we can transfer it into practice we will eliminate all these problems of human error caused by boredom, overwork or underwork, which have been responsible for the recent scares.

"You would no longer rely on someone's eye, but on a computer system which should be foolproof."

Long hours and low pay for hard-pressed staff

BY JOANNA BALE

UNDER the present system for checking cervical smears, poorly paid laboratory staff spend up to 4½ hours every day looking down a microscope at slides containing 300,000 cells.

They spend up to 25 minutes per slide searching for subtle changes in a single cell which may indicate an abnormality. It is a tedious task, requiring great concentration and has been likened to searching for a needle in a haystack.

At the Royal London Hospital in East London, where one of Britain's first cytology departments was established in 1964, little has changed in screening methods for 20

years. Geoffrey Curran, a science graduate, who has worked in the laboratory for four years said: "It is a highly skilled and very important job. We all have degrees or equivalent and undergo two years of training, but the pay is very bad. It can be as little as £7,000 when you are training and £11,000 when you qualify."

"We have problems recruiting staff, so we are always very busy. It is very expensive and time-consuming to train people, but many find it boring and go to work in different departments or leave for better-paid jobs."

Mr Curran works with four other medical laboratory scientific officers and a trainee, testing 16,000 smears a year. They also examine 4,000 other specimens for different diseases. Each looks at about 20 smear slides a day, spending a minimum of eight minutes on each.

Abnormal cells are marked with ink and the slide passed on to more senior staff. All negative slides are also rescreened for between 30 seconds and four minutes by another officer. The laboratory has a two to three-week backlog, though urgent tests can be done in two days.

Chris Brown, who runs the laboratory, said: "Even when we are fully staffed, it is difficult to find the time to do essential things like train people, evaluate statistics, and look at the quality of the work."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman vicar is robbed at knifepoint

A vicar was held up at knifepoint by a robber who stole more than £700 from the church safe. The Rev Jane Fortune-Wood, 36, a mother of four, said she feared that the man would sexually assault her after he confronted her outside St Barnabas in Solihull, West Midlands, on Sunday. He made her lock the church doors and open the safe, which contained collection money and takings from the Christmas fete. She said: "He could have been very dangerous. He was very psyched up."

Hostage freed

A British aid worker has been freed after being held hostage for four days by Somali gunmen. Dennis Cassidy, 49, from Merseyside, who works for the European Union's Somalia Unit, was kidnapped with four UN workers at Elayo on the Gulf of Aden.

Bodies returned

The bodies of Shazannah Turner, 5, her air-hostess mother, Karina, 24, and grandmother, Joan Turner, 53, who were killed in the massacre at Luxor in Egypt, arrived back in West Yorkshire. The funeral will be held at their home village of Ripponden.

Alfa is car of year

The Alfa Romeo 156 has been voted European Car of the Year by journalists from 21 European countries. The 130mph car, which goes on sale in Britain in February, beat the new Volkswagen Golf into second place, with the Audi A6 third.

First of the many

Glenda Jackson, the Aviation Minister, opened a £500,000 passenger terminal at Biggin Hill, southeast London. The former Battle of Britain airfield is expanding from private aircraft to commuter services, and hopes for up to 100,000 travellers a year.

NEWS
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vict
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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

HOME NEWS 9

MI6 'offered to pay sacked spy for secrets book'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SACKED MI6 officer who has pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act was offered money by his former employers in return for handing over the book he had threatened to publish, a court was told yesterday.

Richard Tomlinson, 34, dismissed from MI6 in 1995, said that he had money problems when Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) officers visited him in Spain after he threatened to write about his operational experiences.

At Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London yesterday, Colin Gibbs, for the prosecution, said that MI6 offered Tomlinson "financial assistance and other support", provided he agreed to drop his claim for unfair dismissal and

to hand over all the information he had written down, both on paper and on his computer. A deal was agreed between MI6 and Tomlinson in February this year, Mr Gibbs said, but subsequently he flew to Australia to find a publisher for his book. At his fourth court appearance since his arrest on October 31, Tomlinson pleaded guilty to the unlawful disclosure of information.

Roland Bartle, the Stipendiary Magistrate, committed him for sentencing at the Old Bailey. He was remanded in custody and faces up to two years in prison.

The court was told that Tomlinson, who was arrested at his home in Milton Keynes, had been in negotiation with Transworld Publishers, in

Agent's threat to deal with enemy

RICHARD TOMLINSON, a graduate of aeronautical engineering from Cambridge University and a potential MI6 high flyer, admitted in a letter to the Secret Intelligence Service that he was prepared to "contemplate the unthinkable step of contacting a hostile power".

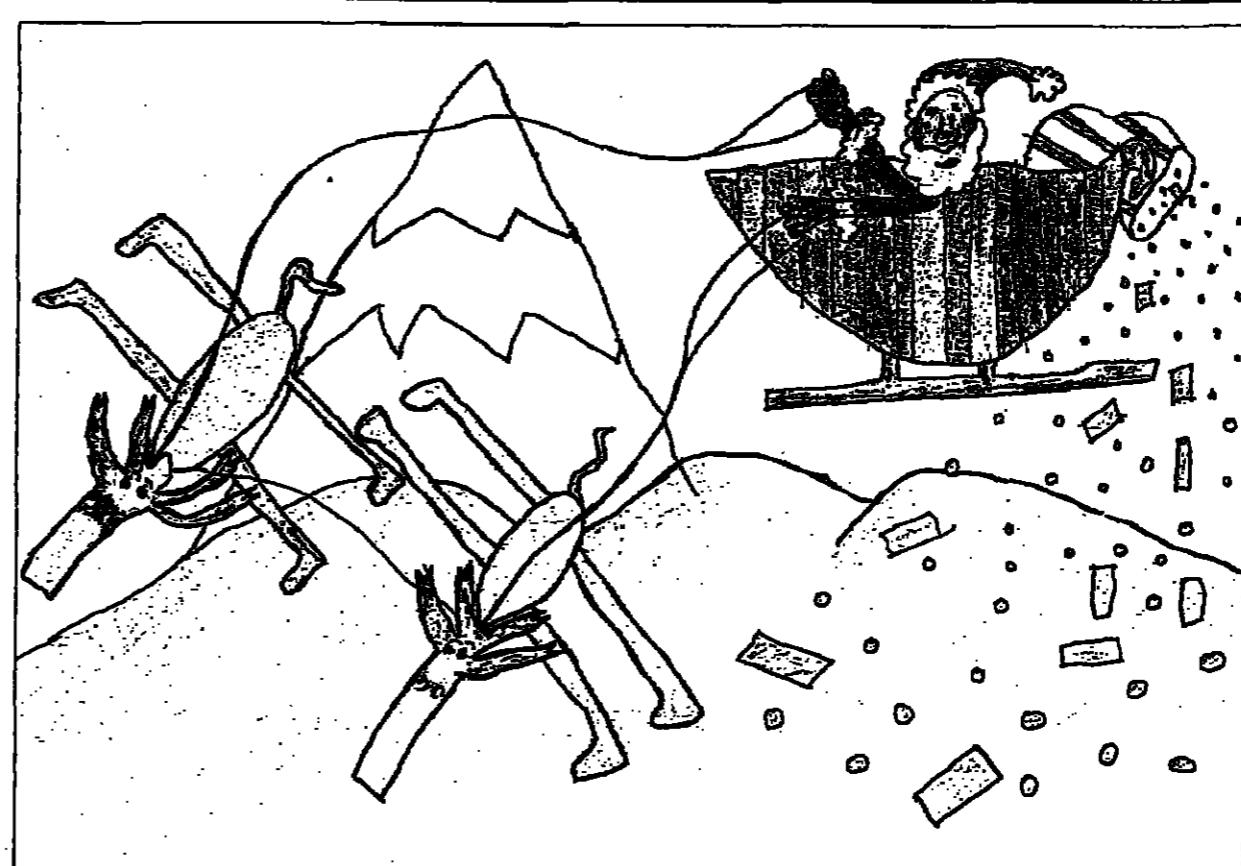
His threat was one of many in a series of letters to his former MI6 employers after being sacked from the service. The contents of these confidential letters emerged during bail applications at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

Last week, after revealing the letters *in camera*, the prosecution gave the details of correspondence in open court. One letter referred to the possibility of "holding a press conference in Mos-

cow". Tomlinson's four-year career in MI6 included a cover "diplomatic" post in Moscow and six months of intelligence-gathering in Bosnia. His last job involved trying to stop weapons of mass destruction being acquired by Iran.

At every court appearance, Tomlinson was denied bail because it emerged that he was trained in escape techniques and was skilled in the use of aliases. After his arrest, police found false documents hidden at his house.

The threat by Tomlinson to publish a book on his operational career with MI6 — or to release the coded contents on to the Internet from two pre-programmed computers — threatened to plunge the Government into another *Spycatcher* affair.



Flight of fancy: the card by Nicholas Gibb, 7, whose uncle works on the Treasury's staff magazine

Chancellor sends gifts from the sky in Treasury greeting

Santa Brown's official Christmas

card rejects the usual historical portrait, reports Andrew Pierce

GORDON BROWN has rejected tradition for his official Christmas card in favour of the artistic talents of the children of Treasury staff.

In the past the Chancellor of the day chose a portrait of one of his predecessors from the government picture collection. But the bachelor Chancellor, who presents his pre-Budget report today, fudged the outcome and declared a tie because he could not bear to hurt the children's feelings.

The two winning designs were by Keir Ferguson, 9, whose mother, Gillian, works on the Treasury local government team, and Nicholas Gibb, 7, whose uncle, James Coker, is assistant editor of *Chequerboard*, the Treasury staff magazine.

Mr Brown was overwhelmed by the response. "It was one of the toughest decisions he has made since

he became Chancellor," an aide said last night.

In the end the Chancellor, who presents his pre-Budget report today, fudged the outcome and declared a tie because he could not bear to hurt the children's feelings.

The two winning designs were by Keir Ferguson, 9, whose mother, Gillian, works on the Treasury local government team, and Nicholas Gibb, 7, whose uncle, James Coker, is assistant editor of *Chequerboard*, the Treasury staff magazine.

Keir, a pupil of Gordon Brock School, Brockley, South London, and Nicholas of Tudor School, Finchley, North London, will meet Mr Brown at 11 Downing Street when it is decorated for Christmas. Keir drew a colourful collection of



Lloyd George, by Low, last year's Treasury card

Christmas stars and James's

had Father Christmas and two reindeers on a green sleigh, with gifts pouring out of his sack, which is more than most people expect from Mr Brown's new Budget box when he unveils the contents of his statement today.

Among those who will receive the boys' handiwork are Alan Greenspan, head of the American Federal Reserve, and Kenneth Clarke, Mr Brown's predecessor.

Mr Brown, who is planning to spend Christmas with his family in Scotland with his girlfriend, Sarah MacAsley, said: "Christmas is a time for children. I thought it would be right if the Treasury's Christmas greetings could be seen through the eyes of youngsters. I am delighted with their work."

Vicar who took porn photos of children is jailed

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A VICAR who fled abroad after admitting taking indecent photographs of children was jailed yesterday after 16 months on the run. The Rev Mervyn Roberts, 62, a former prison chaplain, was extradited from the Czech Republic, where he had secured a job teaching English at a Prague boys' school.

Before vanishing, Roberts, a grandfather, had admitted seven charges of taking indecent photographs of girls. He was granted bail and disappeared from his vicarage at Llanpumsaint, Dyfed, a week before sentencing in June last year. He left a false trail, but was arrested in Prague in July after a British tourist recognised him.

Patrick Griffiths, for the prosecution, said that the vicar was arrested after he took a slide film to be processed in Swansea. A technician alerted the police. Roberts denied deliberately taking indecent photographs, but admitted that the pictures of a five-year-old were "a bit rude".

Police later found a hoard of pornography at his vicarage. "A large number of them depicted naked adult females," said Mr Griffiths. They discovered indecent pictures of another girl "in identical poses" to the women. They found that Roberts was renting a photographic studio. He insisted it was used for legitimate portrait work.

Elwen Evans, for the defence, said a jail sentence would be "particularly burdensome" because, as a sex offender and former prison chaplain, Roberts would be subjected to abuse from other inmates. "Threats have been made already," she said.

Judge Martin Stephens, at Swansea Crown Court, jailed him for 15 months and put him on the paedophile register. The judge told him: "You exploited these young children for your own sexual gratification."

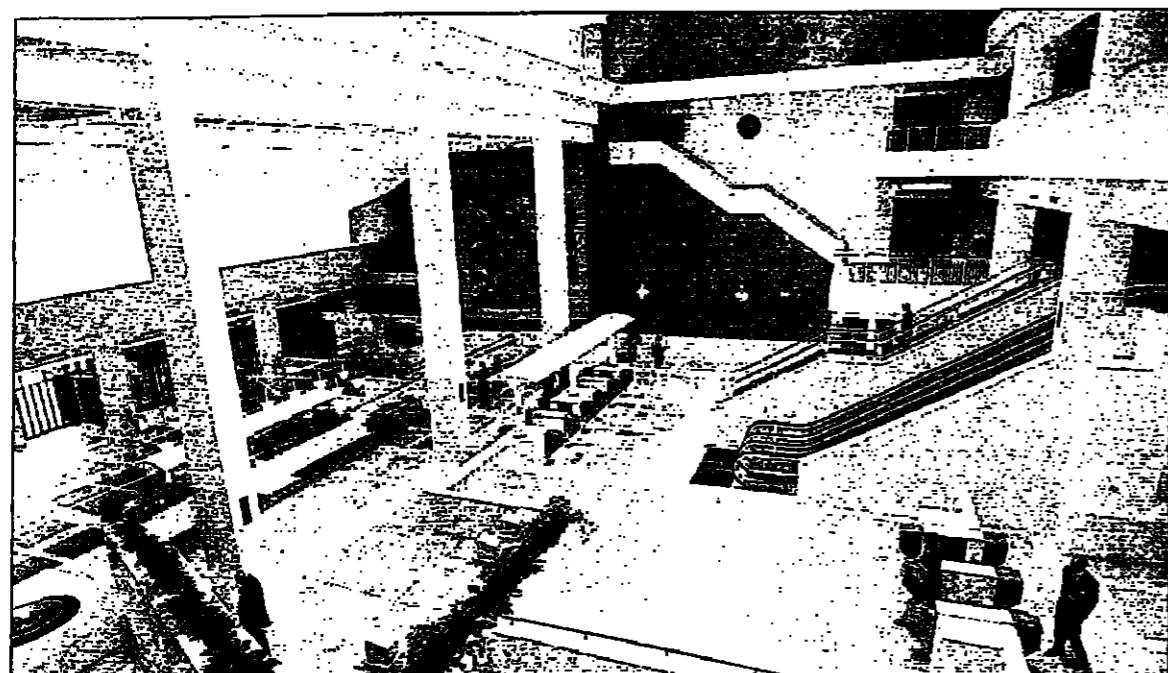
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Keeping a sense of calm: the entrance lobby of the new British Library and, right, Erica Wagner outside



PETER NICHOLLS

Readers' acclaim speaks volumes

BY ERICA WAGNER

AT 9.30am a group of 60 readers entered the new British Library to a sound rarely heard within such walls: applause. As we marched into the library's high, white atrium, the assembled staff stood to welcome us. After years of delay and spiralling expense — a projected budget swelled from £16 million to £51 million — the Humanities Reading Room was at last ready for its first readers.

The move from the old round Reading Room at the British Museum had not been easy. Antonio Panizzi's blue domed space was beloved by all who used it — I loved it, for the three years I worked there before coming to *The Times*, and I shared the trepidation as we stood outside in the cold, waiting for the doors to open. "I was just devastated when I knew the old Reading Room was closing," said Jean Field, a regular reader researching a book on the Varley family of painters.

Rod Adams, progressing

Erica Wagner has been Literary Editor of *The Times* since December 1996. Before joining the paper in 1995 she worked for three years as a freelance editor and reviewer, spending most of her days in the old British Library — of which she grew very fond. Her collection of short stories, *Gravity*, has just been published by Granta Books; one of the tales, *Please Don't*, is set in the Round Reading Room

with his thesis on Eamon De Valera's Cuban antecedents, was concerned that the new library's King's Cross site would attract "riff-raff". "Perhaps it will attract better class of drosser," interjected Graham Boyes, a retired British Rail employee investigating transport history.

But inside the library, the noise and colour — to put it charitably — of King's Cross seems far distant. Here is an oasis of quiet calm: though a ten-minute queue to leave bags and coats in the cloakroom (a service now obligatory to deter theft) dampened the welcome. But upstairs, champagne and coffee greet-

us, as did the first users of Panizzi's library in 1857.

Doubtless several of the library's shelves (which never, contrary to rumour, flung their precious cargo of books from their safe embrace) could be filled with the arguments about Colin St John Wilson's design for the new library: "A lump of bogging on cosmic scale," said Jonathan Meades, "an academy for secret police." ventured the Prince of Wales. Yet the new Reading Room, seating 452 as opposed to the old library's 393, is a fine airy room, the curve of one white wall seeming an echo of the old dome. Its height — arch-

ing over a second tier of reading space — giving the same sense of space and calm.

The doubters began to be convinced: Penelope Farmer, at work on the *Penguin Book of Sisters* and a long-time user of the old library, believed that Wilson was wrongly reviled. She pointed to the wood detailing on the walls. "It's lovely, like something from a harem," she said. But she had left her glasses in her bag downstairs and had to go back for them — an inconvenience of the cloakroom system. However, she hoped — now that 12 million volumes will be on site rather than scattered around the country — that book retrieval would improve. "I've worked in libraries all over the world and getting books was always a doodle compared to the British Library. I'll miss the elegance of the old place, but I won't miss the wait for the books."

Once all the books are on site — there are nearly three million in place now, and it

will be 1999 before the move is completed — books should take half an hour to retrieve from the 300 kilometres of shelving stretching 23 metres below ground. Mike Crumb, director of reader services, said that, at the old library, books from other sites could take a day to arrive. It was often more like three.

But this morning the computer catalogue told me that *A Beginner's Guide to Weaving*, by Kenneth Ponting, was on site: I didn't request Enid Goudie's *Spinning and Weaving* as it was still on its way to the building. No more filling in request slips to be sucked into pneumatic tubes:

a few taps on the keyboard and the computer ordered my book. It was 11am. At 11.40 the little light on my desk told me to collect my book. In the old library 47 per cent of the materials were on site; when the book move is finished that will rise to 82 per cent.

I was duly impressed, as was John Morgan, who had come from Germany to complete a PhD on property valuation. "I ordered books in advance," he said, "but I was sure they wouldn't be here. I bought an open ticket for my return. But they were waiting for me when I arrived." Years of living in Germany have clearly undermined his belief

in British efficiency. He did discover, however, that when he went to plug in his laptop computer, an elegant detail on the new desk blocked the insertion of his adaptor.

Then there was the matter of the public telephones, none of which was working. All BT's fault, I was assured, and shortly to be repaired; but after so much time and so many hitches these seemed like minor flaws.

Brian Lang, the library's chief executive, was undaunted by such matters. "We'll all miss the round reading room," he said. "But everyone — readers and staff — will be better served here." It had, he

felt, been worth the wait. Eighty new readers were registered before 11am yesterday, a substantial increase on usual new registration, and 2,000 books were issued to the reading room before 11.30.

It did seem that the new British Library had met its first invasion of readers with order, efficiency and books on demand. I loved the old Reading Room: I was prepared to be sentimental and stroppy. But sitting there yesterday, writing, I could still smell leather and paper. I still felt enveloped by peace — and I knew I would not grow old waiting to read about weavings, warp and weft.



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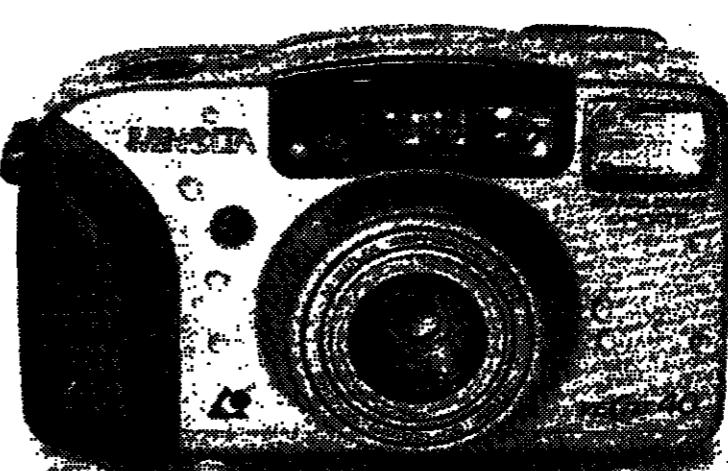
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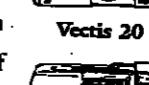
And those disappointing ones, just a distant memory.



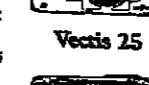
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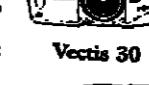
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Winnie Madikizela-Mandela sits impassively during the hearing in Johannesburg yesterday

TB sweeps through southern Balkans

FROM JAMES PITTNER
IN TIRANA

WITH winter approaching, hundreds of new cases of tuberculosis are being reported across the southern Balkans in an epidemic that is threatening to overwhelm the region's sanatoriums.

Across hundreds of miles of mountains from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, the old scourge from before the Second World War is returning. Isolation hospitals, virtually deserted for years, are full of new patients, many of them young, with the soft cough that George Orwell and contemporaries knew so well in the industrial North of England before 1939.

Poverty-stricken Albania is one of the worst affected countries, with about 155 deaths in the past six months attributed to the disease, mostly in far northern and north-eastern areas where most medical facilities have collapsed. However, the Tirana Sanatorium, not far from the presidential palace, on the Elbasan Road, is also crowded with patients in Dickensian conditions.

Dr Shahin Kadara, a local World Health Organisation representative, said: "There is no doubt that with this disease we are facing a crisis."

Sithole, 77, denies treason plot to blow up Mugabe

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Rev Ndabamini Sithole, the once fire-breathing radical leader of Zimbabwe's black nationalist movement, went on trial here yesterday, accused of trying to murder President Mugabe and overthrow his Government.

Revered as god-like among the Shangaan tribe of south-east Zimbabwe who support his small party, he pleaded not guilty in the High Court to treason, conspiracy and possession of arms of war. If found guilty by Judge Esmael Chatikobo, he may be hanged.

Mr Sithole, 77, was arrested in November 1995 after a member of his ZAN-



Sithole's lawyer says he is "sickly and senile"

Ndonga party was caught on a main road outside the capital with a bomb just before Mr Mugabe's motorcade was due.

The aide, an officer of the alleged military wing of Mr Sithole's party now serving a 15-year sentence, and other witnesses have provided evidence alleging that Mr Sithole sent young supporters for military training in Mozambique. They say that he ordered the distribution of weapons and explosives, and directed the anti-Mugabe plot.

There is no love lost between the two men. Mr Sithole headed the movement against white rule in the former Rhodesia until Mr Mugabe ousted him in 1974. Regarded as having led the start of the "armed struggle" in Rhodesia, he was jailed for six years in 1969 for plotting to kill Ian Smith, the then Prime Minister.

There is scepticism, however, over the threat posed by Mr Sithole. He showed little interest in the court proceedings and appeared to nod off. His lawyer, Tendai Biti, says he is "sickly and senile".

Judges in the trials of other alleged conspirators called the accused amateur. The anti-personnel mine had little chance of seriously damaging the bullet-proof presidential Mercedes.

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WINNIE Madikizela-Mandela sat impassively through eight hours of harrowing testimony given in stifling heat yesterday as former friends and long-standing enemies accused her of torture, abduction and several murders.

Mr Mandela, 63, the former wife of Nelson Mandela, confronted her accusers for the first time at a hearing of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission into the "Mandela United Football Club" that could decide her political future.

She remained unmoved as Phumile Dlamini sobbed and told how the woman who was once hailed as a champion of the oppressed had attacked her in a jealous rage and orchestrated the murder of her brother Thuli. She whispered instructions to her lawyers as Thami Hlatshwayo, a former guerrilla of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, said he had been present when a witness to the killing of his superior officer, who had clashed with Mrs Mandela, had been shot on her orders.

The erstwhile "Mother of the Nation", who is running for the deputy presidency of the ANC, remained deadpan as Nicodemus Sono accused her of having tortured and abducted his son Lolo nine years ago.

She stared with visible venom at John Morgan, her former driver and friend for 40 years, who told the commission she had begun four days of torture of four youths. Mr Morgan, given a one-year suspended sentence for kidnapping during the 1991 trial of Mrs Mandela and others

Scared witnesses tell of her alleged central role in campaign of torture and murder, Sam Kiley reports

for the murder of Stompie Moketsi Seipei, said the beatings led directly to the death of the 14-year-old activist.

He dismissed her alibi that she was far away in Brandfort at the time Stompie died — a central part of her defence that meant she received a suspended sentence and a fine for kidnapping rather than the death sentence for murder.

Dressed in an elegant suit with a pattern of blue roses and white high-heeled shoes, Mrs Mandela swept into a hall, surrounded by a phalanx of private bodyguards, exuding the confidence of a Hollywood star. The shine never left her as successive witnesses gave evidence that cast her and other members of

the club*, a township vigilante group she set up during a reign of terror in the 1980s in Soweto, as principal actors in a series of ghoulish crimes.

The commission, set up under the chairmanship of Archbishop Desmond Tutu to investigate apartheid-era political crimes and to hear amnesty applications, sat grim-faced through bitter exchanges between Mrs Mandela's legal team.

"When they started the football club everyone admired them. I did too; we all loved Winnie. But they

were then started a reign of terror, burning houses and killing people," said Mrs Dlamini, who said the son she was carrying at the time of her

murder was shot on her orders.

She stared with visible venom at John Morgan, her former driver and friend for 40 years, who told the commission she had begun four days of torture of four youths.

Mr Morgan, given a one-year suspended sentence for kidnapping during the 1991 trial of Mrs Mandela and others



Tutu: chairman of the truth commission



Hlatshwayo: said he saw murder witness shot

beating from Mrs Mandela and other members of the club was born with learning difficulties.

All the alleged murders and beatings were carried out during 1988 when Mrs Mandela was deeply involved in organising ANC guerrilla insurrection operations inside South Africa. The testimony given yesterday showed she was simultaneously orchestrating a terror campaign against her own community.

Mr Sono, a prominent Soweto businessman who gave sanctuary to guerrillas in his own home, last saw his son Lolo in the back of the Mandela minibus where he was being held by two youths he did not recognize. But he had known the woman sitting in the front since 1976.

"She said that he was a police spy and that she was taking this dog away and the movement [the ANC] would decide what to do," he said.

"I had never seen the other side of Winnie. She was very aggressive and shouting at me so I pleaded with her to let me go. I took Lolo at home as he had already been beaten. But she refused," he added.

The fear instilled during the football club years still gripped other witnesses. Nona Shabala, whose son disappeared the day after Lolo, his best friend and neighbour, said she had not reported him as missing to the police because she was afraid.

Mrs Shabala whimpered: "I am scared of Winnie... she is not scared of seeing blood on the floor of her own home. But I am afraid to see it." Mrs Mandela is expected to take the stand this week.

Assassin of Hani seeking amnesty

Marcelodi, South Africa: The Polish assassin of Chris Hani, the South African Communist Party leader, said yesterday that the friendliness of his police interrogator, who had plied him with alcohol while professing to share his right-wing beliefs, had fooled him into confessing to the murder.

Janusz Walus is seeking an amnesty from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the 1993 murder of Hani, one of the country's foremost black leaders. His fellow conspirator, Clive Derby-Lewis, a white rightwinger also seeking an amnesty from the commission, gave Walus the pistol with which he killed Hani. Both are serving life sentences.

Resuming his testimony to the commission after a three-month adjournment, Walus said he acted on orders from Derby-Lewis and the white Conservative Party (CP), which boycotted the 1994 election won by President Mandela's African National Congress. "I did this under the instructions of Clive and the CP. I agreed to take this task on myself because I believed that it could stop the takeover of power by the ANC and the Communist Party of South Africa." (Reuters)

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British con artist offers 'Aids cure' to Kenyan patients

David Orr
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we've achieved 35 successful conversions from HIV-positive to a state of total clinical regression of the disease. If I'm the greatest conman in the world, how did I get these results?"

He introduced a woman called Esther, 23, whose life he claims to have saved. As a result of his treatment, he said, HIV was no longer detectable in her body. He added that some formerly HIV-positive patients had even tested antibody-negative after treatment.

Kenya's medical establishment is not impressed. "This

man is a quack," said Dr Khamza Rogo, the chairman of the Kenyan Medical Association. "He's a crook of the highest order. The claims he's making are outrageous."

Dr James Nyikal, the deputy chairman of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board, the regulatory body in Kenya, said: "We want this man investigated. What he's doing is illegal. He's not a doctor and I don't think he's safe to treat humans."

He added that he had seen receipts and copies of cheques made out to Basil Wainwright. Some patients, he says, are being asked to pay up to 500,000 Kenyan shillings (£5,000) for treatment.

According to Dr Rogo, one American woman who inquired about Aids treatment was told a complete course would cost £12,000. "You're charged according to how wealthy you appear," he said.

"If you're rich, you could be really fleeced. I know two people with cancer who spent

over £12,000 each on their treatment. They were told they were cured. Both are now dead."

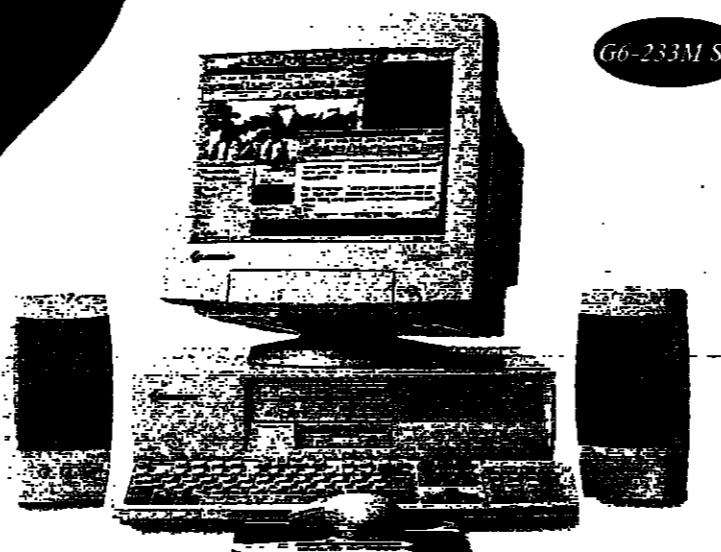
Mr Wainwright is associated with a Nairobi clinic called Beyond 2000 and a number of church-based clinics. He says

that he provides equipment, training and advice to these operations free.

He received a three-year jail sentence in 1983 for defrauding Mr Edmonds. In 1990 he was jailed for four years in the United States for running an

unlicensed medical practice and selling bogus equipment. A Florida judge called him an "extreme danger to the community". The American authorities estimate that he could have made up to £1 million from the hoax.

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Austrian party vows to save the schilling

BY ROGER BOYES

JÖRG HAIDER, the leader of Austria's far-right Freedom Party, yesterday launched a Save the Schilling campaign to mobilise Eurosceptics against the euro.

Under Austrian law it is sufficient to gather 100,000 signatures within a week to ensure that an issue — in this case a referendum on participation in European economic and monetary union (EMU) — is brought before parliament. The petitioners cannot, however, force the hand of the ruling Social Democrat-People's Party coalition that has always rejected Herr Haider's demands for a euro vote.

The Freedom Party leader calculates that he will win either way: if the Government snubs his referendum demand he will present himself as the true voice of the people; if the Government accepts a poll, the old splits over Europe can be exploited. In either situation, Herr Haider will be able to stir up considerable anti-European sentiment.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Indian coalition on verge of collapse

Delhi India's seven-month-old minority coalition Government neared its end yesterday after a row with the party which had been keeping it in power forced parliament to be suspended.

Inder Kumar Gujral's centre-left coalition formally rejected a demand by its Congress Party ally to drop a southern party from the federal Government. The lower house of parliament was indefinitely adjourned, and is expected to be dissolved, after MPs from Congress and the regional Dravida Munnetra Kazagham brought proceedings to a halt by shouting at each other.

Congress wants the regional party removed from the Government after an investigation into the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, six years ago linked the grouping with Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka. (Reuters)

Septuplet suffers setback

Des Moines One of the world's only septuplets, born last week to Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey, has been put back on a breathing device. The hospital said Joel, the last-born, had breathing problems and his condition had changed from fair to serious. His brothers and sisters were all doing well although only one, Kenneth, the first-born, was breathing on his own. (Reuters)

Pressure for 'Reagan' airport

Washington: Momentum is building among Republicans to rename Washington National airport after Ronald Reagan, right (Ian Brodie writes). They hope to pass a Bill endorsing the idea before Mr Reagan's 87th birthday on February 6. Then it would be up to President Clinton, a Democrat, to sign the measure, which has won backing from all 32 Republican state governors, led by George Allen, Governor of Virginia, where the airport is sited.



Ban on cheating sparks riot

Quetta, Pakistan: Students went on the rampage, forcing a university campus to close, after being refused the right to cheat in exams, officials said. Police were called to the Engineering and Technology faculty at Khuzdar, in the southwest of the country. Student leaders said they had been told the authorities would look the other way if they cheated. (Reuters)

Fugitive faces extradition

Athens: Extradition hearings have begun for an Italian fugitive initially linked to the 1978 murder of Aldo Moro, Italy's former Prime Minister. Authorities here had said that Enrico Bianco was arrested in connection with that case, but later they said the warrant had failed to mention the 1981 acquittal in absentia of Bianco, who is also sought on robbery and drug charges. (AP)

Plane that took off on its own

Chicago: Aviation officials are investigating how a vintage propeller plane took off without its pilot and flew nearly 100 miles for more than an hour before crash-landing into a farm field, left. The 50-year-old, single-engine Aeronca Champ, which took off from Urbana Grimes Field near Dayton, Ohio, after pilot Paul Sirks got out to hand-crank the propeller, buzzed the field and then flew north before running out of fuel and crashing. (Reuters)

Children die in film stampede

Kayes, Mali: Seven children died during a stampede here when the horror film they were watching suddenly stopped, plunging the cinema into darkness, police said. The children, aged from 6 to 12, were watching a film called *A Two-Headed Man* when the projector stopped. Apparently one child started screaming in the darkness and a stampede ensued. (AFP)

Greek village protests curbed

Athens: Police clamped martial law-style restrictions on Olympiada and neighbouring Varvara in northern Greece where there have been violent protests against a planned Canadian gold-processing plant. Olympiada's local president was among four people questioned after 99 petrol bombs, three barrels of chemicals, and spent bullets were found at a checkpoint. (AP)

Sabbath rest from virtual pet

Jerusalem: An ultra-Orthodox rabbi in the northern town of Safed has ruled that virtual pets should fend for themselves on the Jewish sabbath, an Israeli newspaper reported. It said he gave the decision to a strictly observant Jewish youth who rebelled against letting his pet "die" every week. (AP)

Austrian
party vow
to save it.
schilling

Clamour for new anthem after Italian footballers did not know the score

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

PRESSURE is growing for a new Italian national anthem after complaints by Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, that few Italians seem to know the present one, which was written 150 years ago. Top favourites for a replacement include Verdi's *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*.

Signor Prodi's concern appar-

ently came to a head a week ago when, shortly before the World Cup finals qualifying match between Italy and Russia, only one of the Italian players — Fabrizio Ravanelli, the former Middlesbrough player — knew any of the words. The rest of the team stayed silent during the anthem (which many Italians privately consider archaic and turgid). Italian television reported that the Prime Minister was worried that Italy

would "be made to look foolish in the eyes of a global audience" if its national team stayed mute during the World Cup in France next year. "Only Ravanelli's lips moved at all at the start of the match with Russia," the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* said. "Our lads have acquired bad habits. They should sing to show that our Italian hearts beat in unison and are full of patriotic sentiment."

Cesare Romiti, the chairman of

Fiat also expressed concern. "Somebody should tell the players that the national anthem is a symbol of Italy and is therefore worth singing," he said.

But *Panorama* magazine said:

"The truth is that very few people know the anthem, so perhaps we should change it." The anthem,

properly entitled *Fratelli d'Italia*

(Brothers of Italy), was written by Goffredo Mameli, a poet and revolutionary who fought for a united Italy and died aged 22 while defending the short-lived Roman Republic of 1849. Mameli's death made him a hero of the Risorgimento, which culminated in the unification of Italy in 1860, with Victor Emmanuel II of Savoy proclaimed King the following year.

Mameli's anthem includes such stirring lines as "For centuries we have been downtrodden and derided, because we were not one

people, we were divided. Let us take up a single flag to bind us together, for now the hour has struck." But *Il Messaggero* said no one could be expected to sing "impossible" words such as "Brothers of Italy, Italy is woken, with Scipio's helmet she has girded her head."

The Mameli anthem was described as provisional, but has never been replaced. Many Italians favour *Va, pensiero, sulPali*

dorate, more popularly known as the *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves*, from Verdi's *Nabucco*. The separatist Northern League, led by Umberto Bossi, has attempted to adopt the theme as the anthem for its proposed North Italian state of "Padania", arguing that since he was born at Busseto near Parma and died in Milan, Verdi was a "Padanian" himself. In fact, Verdi was a leading champion of Italian unification.

MICHAEL GANGONE / EPA

Squabbles mar Chirac-Jospin 'partnership'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

INSULTS flew between the rival camps of Lionel Jospin and President Chirac yesterday, amid predictions that their uneasy power-sharing "cohabitation" is heading for an early break-up.

For the first time since his election victory six months ago, the Socialist Prime Minister took a direct swipe at M Chirac, mocking the conservative President for mistakenly calling the election that has forced him to share power with a left-wing government.

Responding to M Chirac's criticisms of his "hazardous experimentation" in employment policy, M Jospin, speaking at the Socialist congress in Brest at the weekend, pointed out that the President himself was not stranger to political hazards.

"That reminds me of a hazardous experiment that took place on April 21, 1997," M Jospin said, referring to M Chirac's ill-fated decision to dissolve parliament and call elections which brought the Socialists to power.

"Cohabitation" between the two most powerful men in France is proving increasingly fractious, and M Jospin's willingness to lash out at the man whom he referred to only as "the other head of the executive" is a sign of his growing

popularity and confidence. Philippe Séguin, head of the Gaullist RPR party, dismissed M Jospin's remarks as arrogance, while Jean-Louis Déry, the Interior Minister in the former conservative Government, said the Prime Minister had become aggressive after finding himself isolated from other European leaders on the issue of employment at the Luxembourg summit.

The latest polls show that M Jospin is admired by 69 per cent of French voters, including a majority of opposition supporters, and his judicious handling of the recent lorry drivers' strike has been hailed as proof of his efficient, if unexciting, style. By contrast, only 6 per cent of voters believe M Chirac is still in control of France.

Technically, the uncomfortable power-sharing arrangement could last five years, but M Chirac has the power to call another election a year after the last, and many observers predict that, following the latest acrimonious exchanges, "cohabitation" is doomed to an early death.

Jacques Delors, the Socialist former President of the European Commission, said he was convinced the power-sharing arrangement would not last. He predicted there



A policewoman stands guard outside the Paris court-house yesterday where 38 fundamentalists faced charges of helping Algerian terrorists

Muslim radicals on trial over French bombings

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A GROUP of 38 Islamic fundamentalists went on trial in Paris yesterday, charged with helping Algerian terrorists to carry out a bombing campaign in France in 1995.

Anti-riot police set up a tight cordon around the court-house and security was also

heavy in some Metro stations, with soldiers and police armed with machine-guns patrolling the underground platforms.

Most of those in the dock

are the sons of North African Muslim immigrants, who were born in France and allegedly recruited by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of the rebel

groups fighting to overthrow the regime in Algiers. The GIA claimed responsibility for the wave of bomb attacks in France in which eight people died and more than 170 were injured.

The 38 accused men have been charged with providing logistical support for the terrorists, but their lawyers say they should not have to face

trial until the individuals who planted the bombs are brought to justice. Several suspects have been killed by security forces in France and Algeria.

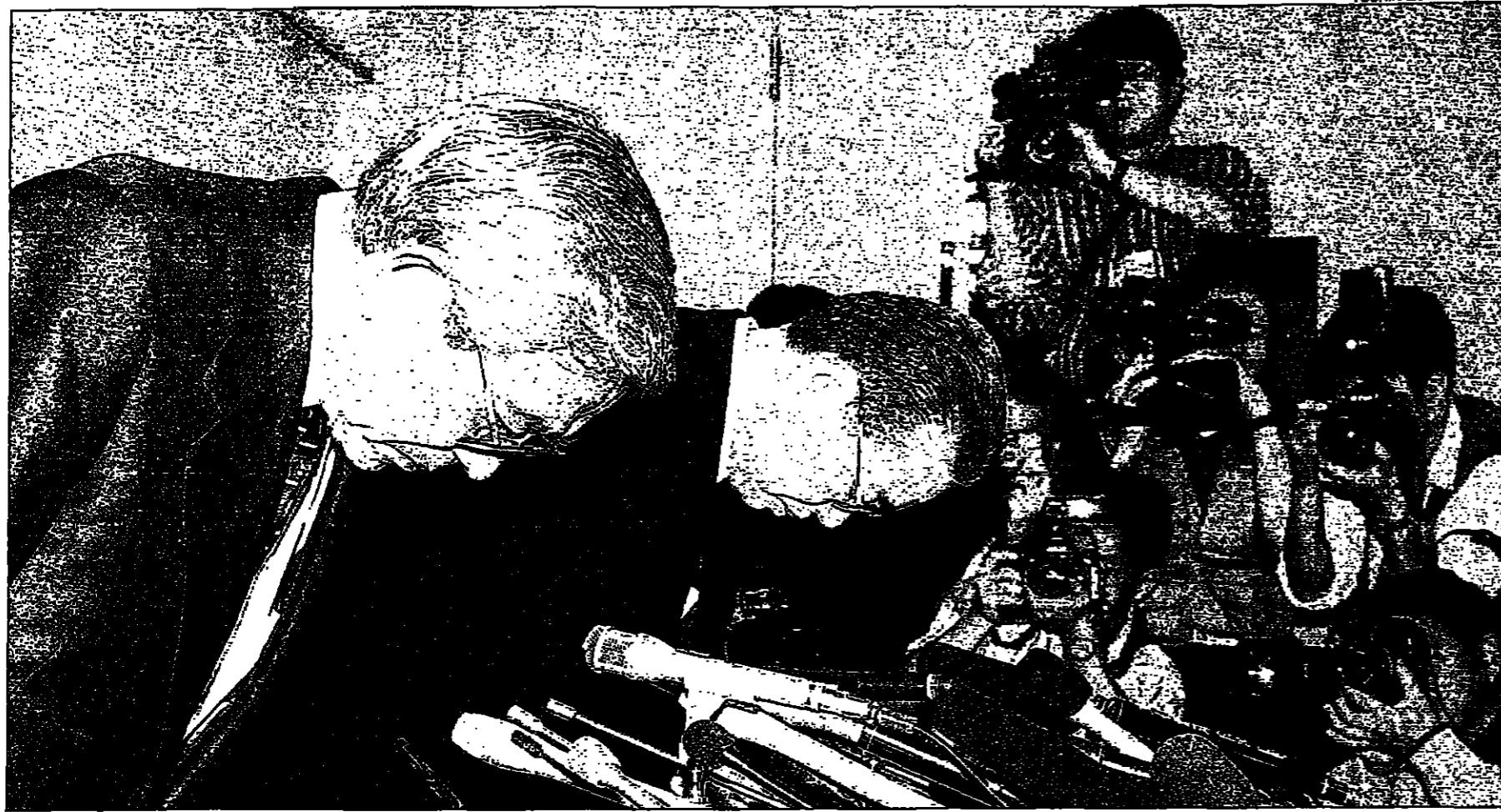
Most of the defendants are alleged to have been recruited in the immigrant housing estates around Lyons by Ali Touche, alias Tarek, the 30-year-old ringleader of the

French GIA network who remains at large.

The attacks in France were carried out, the GIA said at the time, in retaliation for French support for the Algerian Government. The bombings brought Algeria's violent insurgency to French territory for the first time since Islamic militants began their campaign in 1992.

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Syohei Nozawa, centre, president of Yamaichi Securities, and Shoji Saotome, left, its chairman, bow before a press conference called to announce the liquidation

US pledges 'doomsday' fix

Bronwen Maddox reports from the Vancouver summit

PRESIDENT CLINTON and other Pacific Rim leaders, racing to calm global fears about a "financial doomsday", yesterday pledged to take immediate steps to prevent the Asian crisis spreading.

But the unfamiliar gloom of financial turmoil hung over the opening of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum in Vancouver. The leaders, shunning the meeting's traditional celebration of the "Asian economic miracle", said it would take massive financial injections and potentially explosive political reforms to prevent the crisis worsening.

"The turmoil ... cannot be waved away by brave talk that it is just a passing difficulty. It is a wake-up call for all our countries," said President Ramos of the Philippines. Thailand, the first country shaken by the crisis, gave a warning that if Apec's response were "anything less than large and dramatic", the predicament would worsen. In two days of talks, leaders of 18 countries will throw

their support behind a financial rescue effort led by the International Monetary Fund, aided by America and Japan. Mr Clinton played down talk of catastrophe in the wake of Asian bank failures, currency devaluations and stock market plunges, calling the problems "a few little glitches in the road. We're working through them."

With an eye to his home audience, he emphasised that the IMF deal would not demand an enormous American contribution. "Our commitment is limited but significant enough," he said.

After the collapse yesterday of Yamaichi Securities, Japan's fourth-largest broker, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, pledged to stabilise his country's financial system, shaken by bad loans and a plunging stock market. The Bank of Japan also moved fast to bolster confidence, saying it would offer Yamaichi

loans and provide funds to shore up the country's financial system. South Korea's decision on Friday to bite the bullet and ask the IMF for a \$20 billion (£11.9 billion) bailout of its stricken banks helped to ease concerns that its financial woes

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would spread. But President Kim Young Sam said the austerity package would demand years of "bone-carving pain". Thailand and Indonesia have already subscribed to multimillion-dollar IMF-led rescue packages. It was inevitable that the financial crisis, which has

spread in the past week from some of the fastest-growing countries of South-East Asia to the mature giants of South Korea and Japan, would consume Apec's attention. But American officials were determined to carry on with business as usual, pressing for more trade liberalisation.

However, as bilateral meetings began, America was drumming up only lukewarm support for a pact to liberalise financial markets. The

World Trade Organisation has set a December 12 deadline for a deal. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, stood out as supporting the US position, calling on leaders to look beyond the current crisis and help to prevent future shocks.

Apec members also looked set to reach grudging agreement on eventual liberalisation of nine markets: chemicals, timber, medical equipment, telecom equipment, energy,

environmental products, jewelry, fish and toys. America is pressing Japan for more access to airline routes and for less red tape. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said the recent sharp rise in the American trade deficit with Japan may hurt relations between the two, and urged Japan to boost demand at home. The trade gap surged by 7 per cent to \$5.1 billion in September, according to new figures.

However, Mr Clinton, who elevated Apec to the status of a summit in 1993, has been undermined by the recent refusal of Congress to give him "fast-track" trade negotiating powers, or to give an extra \$3.5 billion to the IMF.

The sole ebullient figure yesterday was President Jiang Zemin of China, even though he was pursued around rainy Vancouver streets by hundreds of chanting human rights demonstrators. Mr Jiang said that China's economy was in excellent shape and a force for stability in the region.

Drama touches lives of millions

THE drama of Japan's biggest corporate failure since the Second World War is being played out remorselessly on television.

As compelling as any royal wedding or funeral, the events of this week will touch the lives of tens of millions of Japanese people, from farmers to housewives, from gangsters to businessmen and schoolchildren.

Less than ten years ago, Yamaichi Securities became the world's capital markets like a colossus as one of the country's Big Four brokers. The Big Four were the biggest, best and most profitable brokers in the world.

Japan's stock market was roaring ahead, creating vast and easy profits for the Big Four, for their favoured clients and for investors. The four firms threw regular lavish parties to impress foreign and Japanese clients, dotted with geisha hostesses, ice sculptures that melted away at £50-an-hour and mountains of the most overtly expensive sushi.

On New Year's Eve 1989 the Big Four decided, as a little private game, to put their collective might together to see if they could push the stock market's Nikkei average, the barometer of Japan's financial and economic health, over 40,000. They

failed. The economic bubble — a five-year rush from 1985 of colossal speculative growth based on a strong yen and cheap credit — was pricked when Yasushi Mieno, an austere career bureaucrat, took over as the Central Bank's Governor and raised interest rates.

Over the next few years as he repeatedly raised rates, share prices more than halved, land prices dropped by three fifths and the share and property boom was shown up as a conjuring trick.

The slump affected all sectors of society. The heads of securities firms resigned for making under-the-table payments to clients who had lost money. Gangsters were caught with large wads of increasingly worthless shares and heavily indebted small companies started going bankrupt. At the bottom of the pile, thousands of small investors, lured by the

legions of formidable securities salesmen from Yamaichi and its competitors, saw hard-earned savings disappearing.

The economic gloom was accompanied by other disasters, some natural, that became linked collectively in the public imagination. In February 1995 the biggest earthquake in 70 years struck the southern city of Kobe, killing more than 6,000 people and revealing dire inadequacies in the leadership of the Government and emergency services.

A few months later, the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult decided to experiment with some of its chemical weapons and released small quantities of deadly sarin

gas on the Tokyo subway during rush hour. To deepen the sense of gloom this year, Yamaichi Securities, which with 100 years of history had counted itself as a relatively venerable member of the broking fraternity, found itself caught up in a pay-off scandal with the three other big brokers.

The company's former president and five other executives are among a host of brokerage industry officials who were arrested for making illegal payments to *sokaiya* (extortionist gangsters) to prevent them from disclosing embarrassing information at the annual shareholder meeting.

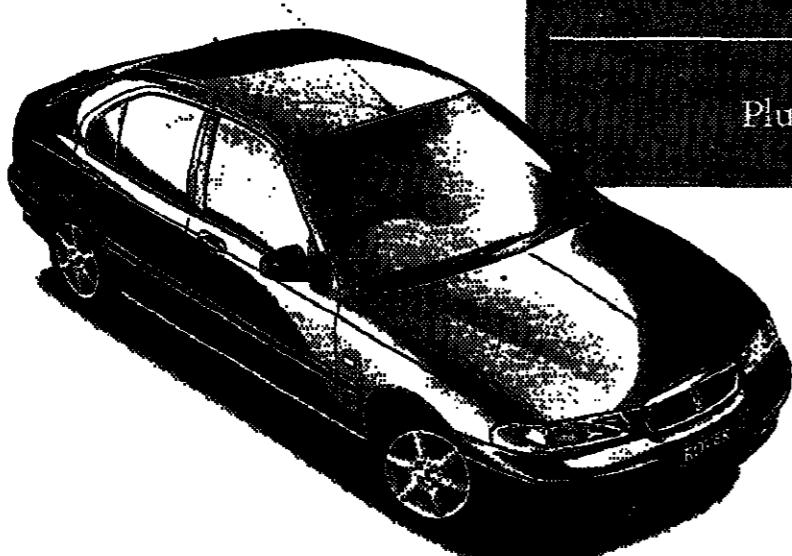
The potential implications of Yamaichi Securities closure are dramatic. Many will suspect that the other brokers have the same problems. But the aim of the Finance Ministry will be to avoid a collapse in investor confidence in the wider Japanese financial system during the crucial run-up to its "Big Bang" deregulation reforms scheduled for next year.

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Joanna Pitman

THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

Clinton's hearing aids put him back in touch with press

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HIS weight and cholesterol are both down, his injured knee has fully recovered and his energy level is high, but at 51 President Clinton now wears a symbol of advancing age: a pair of hearing aids.

Mr Clinton was diagnosed last month as having high-frequency hearing loss in both ears, making it difficult for him to hear in a crowded room, or even when heckled during a speech. Last week he was fitted with tiny cone-shaped devices that hide discreetly in his auditory canals. They are noticeable only by those with a direct view into the ear.

He was wearing them in Vancouver yesterday during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. "They're working well," said his spokesman, Mike McCurry, who said they might even lead to the President hearing reporters' questions with greater clarity. Then again, most pres-

idents have remarkably selective hearing when fielding awkward press inquiries.

Mr Clinton is wearing the aids for short periods as he gets used to them and will gradually increase the amount of time he keeps them in his ears. He has complained for years about hearing loss, and during his latest physical check-up his doctors found a "slight worsening".

The damage is believed to have been caused by music, including his own saxophone-playing, and by exposure to hunting rifles fired close to his ears when he was growing up in Arkansas.

Now that the President has admitted his impairment in public, other victims of hearing damage want him to lead a crusade to save the ears of today's Generation X. They are considered at even more serious risk from listening to music at full blast through headphones. The idea was

proposed by Kathy Peck, whose hearing was damaged by playing in a punk rock band. She is director of a non-profit group in San Francisco, Hearing Education and Awareness for Rockers (Hear). It was established with financial help from Pete Townsend of the British rock group The Who.

He is among a number of rock musicians concerned about hearing loss among themselves and their audiences. Ms Peck said that earplugs were often worn nowadays by musicians and disc jockeys, and there was a growing market for headsets equipped with a built-in switch to reduce sound levels.

Hearing-aid makers are rejoicing at gaining such an important role model as the President. Now only about one in five Americans with hearing loss seek help, but almost everyone with failing eyesight is prepared to wear glasses.



President Clinton in a noisy jazz session with the saxophonist Joe Henderson

White House hopes snub to Netanyahu will hasten peace

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON
AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE White House yesterday admitted that a series of snubs to Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, were designed to increase pressure on him for rapid progress on Middle East peace.

America's weakening support among Arab states during the recent showdown with Iraq has in part been blamed by Washington on the stagnation of peace talks in the region. Officials said that President Clinton's refusal to see Mr Netanyahu during his visit to the United States last week and the White House welcome on Friday for Shimon Peres, the former Israeli Prime Minister, were intended as signals of increasing frustration.

The United States wants Israel to announce a "serious and credible" withdrawal of troops from the West Bank originally scheduled for September under peace accords with the Palestinians. During a recent meeting with Mr Netanyahu in London, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, made it clear that the past 11 months had failed to produce the required momentum necessary for future peace.

During a White House cere-

mony at which Mr Clinton became the first recipient of a peace award named after Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, the President pointedly extolled the virtues of Rabin and Mr Peres while making no mention of Mr Netanyahu. Israeli newspapers carried accounts of private conversations between Mr Clinton and Mr Peres in which he is said to have expressed frustration with the Israeli Government.

Mr Netanyahu faced pressure of a different kind at home yesterday when the Land of Israel Front, which has at least 17 supporters in the 120-seat Knesset where the Prime Minister has a 66-34 majority, threatened to call a no-confidence motion against the Government.

The threat came after an Israel Radio report that Mr Netanyahu was planning to give a further 6-8 per cent of the occupied West Bank back to the Palestinians. The front accused the Prime Minister of buckling under US pressure.

Leading members of Labour and Meretz, left-wing opposition parties, said there would be a general election next year, halfway through Mr Netanyahu's term.

During a White House cere-

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OVERSEAS NEWS 15

Baby boomers pay price for all those years of 'unsafe sax'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON is one of 28 million people in the United States who suffer from hearing loss. Most experts expect the numbers to soar as today's disco generation grows older.

Modest hearing loss is common among the middle-aged, especially those such as Mr Clinton who spent years playing in a band. His recent exposure to helicopter noise cannot have helped.

The fine hair cells in the ear slowly die with age, squeezing the hearing range at both extremes. Loss of high frequencies, which is what President Clinton suffers, makes it harder for him to hear people talking in a crowded room.

There is a genetic component in hearing loss, with some people surviving unscathed noise levels that would quickly deafen others.

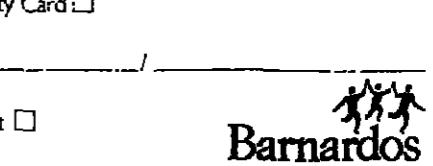
"High-frequency hearing loss is mostly due to noise exposure, usually as a teenager listening to rock music or playing in bands, such as he did," said Dr James Suen, of the National Naval Medical Centre in Bethesda, where Mr

Clinton was examined. Jokes about the President's failure to practise "safe sex" apart, his minor infirmity anchors him even more firmly as the representative of the baby boomer generation, which grew up at a time when amplified music was becoming louder and louder.

The Walkman generation is likely to suffer even greater hearing loss when they reach Mr Clinton's age — he is 51. Earphones can easily generate sound levels of 110 decibels, with nightclubs reaching levels of 140 decibels.

These are far above the levels permitted in the workplace. American standards indicate that continuous exposure to noise over 85 decibels will eventually harm hearing. At 95 decibels, four hours' exposure a day will eventually cause damage, while at 115 decibels, just 15 minutes a day will cause hearing loss.

Audiologists are seeing more and more people with moderate hearing loss. The process is painless and permanent.



'I don't try to smile any more. They don't come'

Chris suffers from autism. He and his wife tell Anjana Ahuja how it affects their marriage

Most people would not give Chris more than two minutes at a party. Engage him in conversation, and he seems aloof, uninterested or, worse, haughty. During our chat in the sitting room of his semi-detached home in Hertfordshire, he fiddles with his fingers and flicks through an electronics magazine. He is very polite but there is little eye contact and few smiles. "I don't try to smile any more," he says wistfully. "They just don't come."

"He didn't seem to know how to respond if I was upset"

Week, when she read *An Anthropologist on Mars*, by Oliver Sacks. "I couldn't believe it. I was reading about Chris." The chapter that so absorbed her was a case study of Asperger's syndrome, a mild form of autism.

The syndrome, which affects more than 200,000 adults and children in the UK, manifests itself in two main ways — an awkwardness in social interactions and an almost obsessive desire for order. The condition makes it impossible to read and react to emotional cues from others.

Gisela remembered how

Chris recognised both traits immediately. Chris was perfectly capable at work, because he knew what he was talking about. But he was hopeless at social gatherings.

Chris seemed unable to muster the insignificant, frivolous and often empty chatter and body language that sustains conversation. The punctuation of human interaction — the occasional nod, smile, thoughtful gaze, raised eyebrow, hum of agreement — was simply missing from his vocabulary. That was why people found him difficult to deal with. As a result, his friendships had been forged through common and practical interests rather than through camaraderie. His late ambition to become a doctor, a job in which social skills are as important as academic ability, was thwarted because his three interviews were disastrous. "I think I came across as monotonous," he says. He will not apply again.

Other parts of the puzzle began to fall into place, too. Chris had always hated boarding school, where the regime clashed with his own sense of order. He loathed living at such close quarters with his schoolmates, who were forever pestering him to join their games. He immersed himself in computers and chemistry to escape both them and his schoolmasters, who regarded him as very bright but extremely reserved.

Gisela remembered how

"clinical" his student room was. And now, she realised, his preoccupation with neatness was surfacing again. Chris was becoming increasingly irritated by the "organised chaos" at home.

Today, the chaos is being kept in check, although George, their five-year-old

son, is crying, the telephone is ringing and Olivia, Gisela's vivacious 16-year-old daughter from her first marriage, has popped her head round the door to say she is off to a friend's house. Chris uses the distractions to sneak another look at his magazine.

A degree of untidiness, Gisela points out, is inevitable given the demands on her time. In addition to a full-time job as a civil servant, Gisela looks after Olivia and two sons from her first marriage, George, and three cats. But

Chris still found it intolerable. He says: "If I came home and found that the kids hadn't washed up or tidied their rooms, I would go mad." He disliked the hordes of teenagers that crowded the house when Olivia, or her boisterous brother, Henry, 17, were at home [Hugh, 19, is at university]. But his enthusiasm for orderliness seemed excessive. One incident that particularly exasperated Gisela was when the couple, both lovers of classical music, replaced their vinyl records with CDs. Chris decided to file them according to the composer's date of birth. "I didn't know these birthdates, so I couldn't find anything," Gisela says. She made him rearrange them.

Wouldn't it be more sensible, I ask Chris, to order them alphabetically according to the composer's name? He looks blank for a minute and says, in a manner not unlike Dr

Spock from *Star Trek*: "But that wouldn't be... logical." Why? "If you know when the composer was born, you know what style of music you're getting." Gisela rolls her eyes.

A two-hour consultation with a psychologist confirmed their suspicions. The couple, who do not want their names used, are convinced that the visit, and subsequent advice, saved their marriage.

But, before that, there was uncertainty and apprehension. Gisela vividly remembers waiting to see the

consultant: "It sounds terrible but I felt like a loser both ways. On the one hand, if he didn't have Asperger's it would mean I had married someone socially inferior. And if he *did* have Asperger's, I would be denied the intuitive side of our relationship."

After initial feelings of relief, Chris felt overwhelmed by depression, because he felt doomed to a life of "never fitting in". He had suffered depression before at university, but those negative emotions dissipated after meeting Gisela. The diagnosis seemed a backward step.

From Gisela's point of view,

however, it rescued the relationship. "I realised that Chris simply couldn't read me, and that's why he was not responding."

Now, instead of reading his reactions, I try to look behind them. He is much easier to understand."

Chris mentions several times that he is not a robot without feeling. "I have a full emotional life in here," he says, touching his chest, "but it's the external expression that's lacking." He looks slightly embarrassed as Gi-

selas reveals that Chris "had tears in his eyes" when George took his first, faltering steps.

The teenagers are still a challenge. Chris is learning to understand their sociable lives but says the situation is made more delicate because of his status as step-parent. He says:

"I feel our relationship should be better, but I don't really know what to do about it or if there is anything I can do."

Aided by medication to ease anxiety, Chris can now brave some social events, such as pub quizzes. Gisela has resigned herself to attending other engagements alone. "I know I'll have a better time," she says, matter-of-factly.

In a marriage, gestures and subtle signals sometimes express far more than words ever can. Gisela doesn't seem to mind that she and her husband will never develop this rich and intimate dialogue. She points out that no relationship is perfect. "I recall someone saying that people with Asperger's never marry," she says. "OK, so Chris is never going to be wildly romantic, but who is? At least I know he has the will to make this marriage work. How many wives can say that?"

● Equinox: Mindreaders, Channel 4, Monday, 9pm. National Autistic Society, 0171-833 2299



Chris and Gisela: a visit to a psychologist confirmed their suspicions. They are convinced that the visit, and subsequent advice, saved their marriage

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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

FEATURES 17

Sex, sequins and Mrs Slocombe

Sitcom star John Inman is word-perfect in panto — but he's less certain of his lines behind the scenes. Interview by Bill Frost

As a child, he stockpiled sequins, perfected the art of dressmaking and idolised Betty Grable; from that defining moment when the young John Inman threaded the first needle, his parents knew the boy was never to be a professional footballer.

His mother, still going strong at 87 and living in Blackpool, was a hairdresser. So was his late father — "a heavy drinker who made me my first model theatre".

At one time his parents had five shops in Preston. They then gave up the business to buy an eight-bedroom board-



John Inman: home bird

ing house in Blackpool. "I could go to a mill town and the love of the greasepaint was already strong, he says. But Inman seems reluctant to talk about any aspect of his life in detail.

For an actor who trades on stage in broad indiscipline and double entendre, he is surprisingly po-faced in real life. It is almost as though he resents, and perhaps fears, intruders.

Home is a refuge and his private life is to be guarded jealously. Journalists, even if expected, are made to feel a little uncomfortable. There is no cup of tea, not even the offer of a seat. The interview must be carried out on his terms — two hours offered, less than one provided before a limousine arrives to take him to a television studio.

It is a disappointment to realise that a performer who can manufacture laughter so easily has little to offer when off-stage. I was looking forward to meeting Inman — who is, after all, one of our national treasures — and rather taken aback to discover a man who seems cold and rather dismissive.

He trusts his mother and a few close friends but perhaps the rest of the world is to be regarded with suspicion. So, stuck to the obvious questions: how did you get started in showbusiness?

"Mother Goose was an early role model. I saw the pantomime and became infatuated with her part — it wasn't just dressing up, there was some real acting involved," he says.

Born in Preston in 1935, Inman was to leave school at 15 and become a window dresser at a Blackpool outfitters. He saw the job as a staging post to the limelight and spent his spare time appearing in the local rep.

"I made all my own cos-

tumes because I couldn't afford to buy stage clothes. I suppose it had been a childhood ambition to act, to create an illusion."

"I thought Betty Grable was just marvellous. She always looked perfect; never a hair out of place or a crooked seam."

The lines are delivered with characteristic high camp inflection. Clearly Inman has used them before when explaining his childhood passions. He says that he has always felt comfortable in frocks, the more sequins the better. But Inman admits that he is less comfortable playing himself out of costume.

"I don't know if I am gay or not, I don't think about sex a great deal. I have a few good friends I can turn to if I get low and I know I can trust them."

Although pantomime is his great love, television brought him financial security and a £600,000 mews house near Little Venice in West London. "But give me the stage rather than the studio and the cameras any day," he says. "I've never liked television rehearsals. I am one of those performers that says 'let's just get on with it' and it's my job to raise a laugh out of somebody else's lines."

At 62, he seems genuinely surprised that Mr Humphries, the mincing menswear assistant he created for *Are You Being Served?*, has taken America by storm more than 13 years after the BBC closed down the Grace Brothers department store. He is regularly mobbed by young fans — many of them gay — from Manhattan to Miami.

"Mr Humphries has been very good to me. But I can't help wondering why these people are still wanting me to call out 'I'm free'."

"It's astonishing that the series goes into 75 per cent of American homes. In San Francisco a while ago hundred of people paid to have tea with me. I went from table to table, chatting and answering questions about Mrs Slocombe's pussy."

"It was exhausting. I had to go and lie down in a darkened room afterwards. The odd thing is that everyone knows the shows better than I do. I suppose it was all so long ago."

"They'll ask me what an episode was all about and I have absolutely no idea! They don't know half the cast have died. The success of *Are You Being Served?* means I'll never have to fear the headline again. But for all that, I will never stop working."

He still sees former members of staff from Grace Brothers and enjoys the camaraderie. They are all surprised that, even now, there are some at the BBC who still consider some of the lines a little risqué.

"Wendy Richard, who now of course stars in *EastEnders*, is a close friend. I suppose we both owe some of our success to *Are You Being Served?* and are both surprised that quips from the Seventies were cut from the re-runs."

"Mollie Sugden (the blushing Mrs Slocombe) is another member of the cast that I keep in contact with. We used to say of her: a mother first, a cook second, an actress third, but always a good



"Mother Goose was an early role model. I saw the pantomime and became infatuated with her part — it wasn't just dressing up, there was some real acting involved"

friend. That remains true to this day. You build bonds with people that are never broken no matter how infrequently you see each other."

Other people's laughter is a tonic, he says. "If I have made people forget their own troubles, even for a moment, then I have achieved my goal."

At the age of 20 he was doing summer farces in Blackpool before getting his big break in pantomime as an ugly sister in *Cinderella* at Coventry. He also worked with the late Sid James, did small television parts, but was essentially a man for two seasons: summer shows and pantomime.

"It's been a full life — very enjoyable. I have been lucky enough to succeed at what I love and what I do best," he told an interviewer some years ago.

However, Inman is curiously subdued when we meet, almost depressed. His featuring role next week in the Channel 4 series *Pantoland* has done little to improve his mood.

"During next Monday's programme, I am shown on camera in a dress, but minus wig and no make-up. I look very strange, like someone from a horror film," he says, irritably. "The whole point of pantomime is to create a character, and that's particularly important for a dame. Down the years I have never been photographed before I was ready, a cook second, an actress third, but always a good

like this. There is no point in wearing a woman's costume if people are made aware that the character is not really a woman. I've been doing pantomime for more than 35 years and this has never happened before."

Inman genuinely cares about this most peculiarly British art form. "There's nowhere else in the world that this blend of music-hall, slapstick and so much more could

flourish and we should be proud of pantomime."

His London home is as ordered and attractive as any of the window settings he dressed in his youth. Ronny, his assistant, shields the actor from intruders and ensures that authorised visitors wipe their feet on the doormat.

"I'm a home bird," Inman says. "I don't go out clubbing and I don't like being expected to run into rooms shouting

I'm free! — would you? At 62, I'm heading towards the age when I can have a bus pass and I am quite content with my life — nothing is missing, there is nothing left that I have to fight for."

His mother would like him to have married and had children. Indeed, there was a time when Inman talked of starting a family.

In the early Nineties he collapsed with chronic bronchitis and his own survival became paramount. "I'd been in pantomime and picked up a very bad cold. Foolishly, I tried to work through it. But one day I couldn't breathe, it was very frightening."

He kicked his 60-a-day smoking habit while in hospital and put on two stone after doctors prescribed steroids to ease his chest problems. Despite dieting, he has not lost the weight and still occasionally pines for a cigarette.

"That was in 1993 and there have been days since when I have been so hungry that I could have eaten the table. Food is still a big weakness and so is Beefeater gin."

He has suffered chest problems since and remains on medication. "The doctors told me a third attack would be my last. It was frightening — a brush with mortality."

His comfort now is performing. "I love the stage — it goes right back to my childhood. I was knee-high to a grasshopper when I made the decision and everybody thought I was mad. Now it is so wonderful to

walk through a stage door and know you belong — these people are all members of your family."

He shakes his head a little too vigorously when asked if he is ever lonely in the luxurious seclusion of his home. "Remaining single is a decision I made some time ago — I'm married to my career. It's very important to me, the biggest chunk of my life."

I'm perfectly happy being alone, though I don't want to spend my days in a little attic room all by myself. It's just that I'm far more in love with acting than I could ever have been with a permanent partner. That may sound selfish, but I have to look after myself. I don't want the responsibility of caring for someone else."

■ *Pantoland*, 8.30pm, next Monday. *Are You Being Served?* is being repeated on BBC1 at 5.30pm on Saturday.

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We really are rolling in money

Anatole Kaletsky on the dilemma facing Mr Brown

If Britain has the best performing economy in Europe, as we keep reading in the papers, why does there seem to be less money for schools to buy textbooks and hire teachers? If Britain is a model economy viewed enviably by its neighbours, why must the sick wait in agony for months, or even years, before they can have their operations?

If Tony Blair has a new vision of social cohesion which blends the compassion of Nye Bevan with the efficiency of Margaret Thatcher, why has his Government run out of money to continue Tory programmes for supporting the disabled and the unemployed? And if this new model Britain has the strongest public finances in Europe, effortlessly meeting the Maastricht treaty constraints, why can't the Government afford to keep open the theatres, universities and museums which survived and thrived in the days when Britain was an economic basket-case?

The answers to these questions — or, more accurately, the single answer — will be clearly implicit in Gordon Brown's Pre-Budget Report today. That answer is simply that Mr Blair and the Chancellor do not really want to do any of these things.

They do not want to rebuild Britain's schools. They do not want to shorten NHS waiting lists. They do not want to support the poor and disabled. And they do not want to preserve Britain's cultural and intellectual standards.

These statements may sound outrageous, but the Chancellor will present incontrovertible evidence about his true motivations this afternoon. The pre-Budget statement will show that national income is, indeed, growing strongly and will continue to do so. It will show that the new deregulated Britain is, indeed, a model economy in its simultaneous achievement of low inflation and falling (although still high) unemployment. And it will show that Britain's public finances are the strongest in Europe, with a very small government deficit, which will turn into a rapidly growing surplus from next year onwards.

Under these circumstances, government claims that "there is no money" for improvements in health, education or other public spending programmes are quite simply false. There is plenty of money in the Treasury — a probable surplus of about £3 billion next year, rising to perhaps £20 billion annually by 2001/02. The question is how the Government wants to spend all this money.

So far, it has been insulated from this question by its electoral promise to stick to Tory spending plans. But this pledge runs out in April 1999. From today onwards, as his pre-Budget statement looks towards to economic conditions in 1999 and foreshadows the public spending decisions that will have to be taken next autumn, Mr Brown will have to give some good reasons for

maintaining his iron grip on the public purse. His main argument today — that any Treasury surpluses should be used to repay public debt for the benefit of future generations — is only partly valid. The national debt left behind by the Conservatives (at just over 50 per cent of GDP) is modest by both historic and by international standards.

Mr Brown must also recognise that "future generations" might gain more from improvements in education than they would from reductions in the national debt. The real point, however, is that "fiscal probity", like every other objective of economic management, is not an absolute virtue; in economic policy everything should be treated as a matter of degree.

Even if Mr Brown wants to impose a modest squeeze on demand to prevent inflationary overheating, and thereby encourage the Bank of England to reduce interest rates, he will have to admit that considerable extra funds could still be made available for public spending in the years ahead.

Furthermore, as the end of the public spending moratorium in 1999 approaches, Mr Brown will have to acknowledge that the present level of taxation cannot be taken for granted. There is plenty of scope to increase revenues without breaking the pre-election promises on income tax rates and VAT. That the public would support higher taxes to pay for better health and education services is confirmed by every survey of opinion, including the most important one — the general election itself.

Polls conducted just before the May election showed clearly that voters expected Labour to levy higher taxes than the Tories, and also to spend more on public services. The landslide victory for Labour (along with the Liberal Democrats, who openly advocated higher taxes) can therefore be seen as a mandate to shift the balance of public policy towards higher spending and taxes.

Finally, as 1999 approaches, new Labour will have to turn to the most fundamental question that any government confronts. Even if it does not increase the £320 billion annual public spending total, it will be held responsible for the way that money is shared. Should Britain be building its Millennium Dome, while Chris Smith is closing down the English National Opera? Should we be cutting back on university research, while paying for the new European fighter?

These are the kinds of questions that politicians do not like to answer. But from this week they must start being asked.

A Right do

AS final flings go, it could be wild. William Hague is to mark his last days of bachelorhood before his wedding to Fiona Jenkins next month with a stag weekend at a secret foreign location. A dozen friends, including Sebastian Cox and Alan Duncan, are due to join the Tory leader for the jamboree, so often marked by jolly tapes, strippograms and booze. The men-only trip is being organised by Hague's old chum Nick Levy, a lawyer who left Britain for Brussels in 1994 but took time out to help his buddy during the election.

Those who have not been invited for the stag weekend — or the wedding itself — a small affair, lacking Baroness Thatcher and John Major — should not feel too aggrieved. Lord Parkinson, Tory head boy and a carnival party thrower, is holding a less select bash at the Carlton Club two days before. More than 400 guests, including all Tory MPs and their spouses and frontbench peers, have been invited.

With all these festivities, however, only one person seems to be sticking to the Thatcherite creed of thrift. Fiona has dispensed with Neil Cunningham, the fashion designer who made her celebrated black number for the conference this autumn, and has turned instead to a friend to knock up a wedding dress on her old Singer.

AN invitation from that endearing companion, the Independent



It's our duty to be dull

Strip away the guitars and glitter and every family saga is much the same

After the death of Kurt Cobain of Nirvana, the Australian singer Michael Hutchence of INXS reportedly said: "Pop eats its young, that's for sure."

Now it has eaten him: another lonely, tacky, confused death sets down his name in the lengthening roll of rock's children who lived fast and died young. The industry which loves romantic death will proudly chronicle his drugs and liquor and women and defiant dicta like "I'm not going to live my life in a way that's deemed appropriate" and "I just do my thing, I can't help it". Tribal elders shrug: what else do you expect?

The equally racketty Paula Yates, who was to marry him in Tahiti and who is dyeing her wedding-dress black for the funeral, will be offered brief pity. About fifteen minutes' worth, if that. The reporters who joined her plane to Australia seemed to have trouble balancing their decent instinct for sympathy against reports of wild grieving behaviour, stalking up and down the plane, throwing champagne over British Airways staff and shouting accusations that her divorced husband Bob Geldof "murdered" Hutchence by making things difficult over his children's travelling with their mother.

Reminiscences by those who knew (or interviewed) the couple have veered between displays of sympathy for the dead young musician and headshaking accounts of the way the couple conducted their lives, with Paula giving interviews to the press about her lover while lying in a rumpled bed ostentatiously littered with handcuffs. Even the presence in this wreckage of four children will not hold off the furries: some Middle England spokesmen have never forgiven the poor woman her children's names, from Pitt Trixiebell down to Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily (though come to think of it "Tiger" is rather a nice nickname for a baby). In the first hours after the news I heard half-a-dozen voices opining that the couple were aliens from Planet Rock weirdos, exhibitionists, nothing like us.

Yet tone down the showbiz glitter a few shades and the story is all too familiar. Drugs and drink and celebrity don't change human nature; all they do is to loosen the bonds of affection. The chaos of the Yates-Geldof-Hutchence menage, frankly, is not all that remote from the less public chaos in tens of thousands of

other modern British households. Every detail is oddly familiar, even down to the antidepressants all over the lonely hotel room floor and the row over who will spend Christmas where.

Strip away the guitars and handcuffs and the story gets more recognisable. Girl marries boy, has three children and resolves to be the best of mothers and give them an "Enid Blyton childhood". Bonds are formed, a family created. At the same time, neither parent consents to become middle-aged, and the woman wants to be not only a superb mother but a success in her own right and,

moreover, forever youthful and sexy.

These are not rare ambitions: ask any women's magazine. The marriage becomes less idyllic. Wife meets another man — through work, naturally — who assures her that she is indeed youthful and sexy. She likes him better than the familiar (and by now rather curmudgeonly) husband. They begin a passionate affair and throw in their lot together. The mother is still devoted to the three children and so is their father, but in the heat of the moment this does not seem to be a problem.

As time goes on, rows ensue. The father is reluctant to have his rights and influence eroded by another man. A baby is born to the new couple, which in turn cements them together in a relationship which is harder to break than before. For short periods of time an artificial family forms: the three children of the broken marriage are to be bridesmaids at the new one, and move to another area (in this case, confinement).

The new family looks shiny: as Yates and Hutchence joked: "Things are so nice at home, it's like the bloody Waltons."

But it is built on sand: with no foundations of duty or self-sacrifice or careful compromise or boring old restraint, it starts to quake. The passion of two impulsive people is not cement enough for a structure as heavy and lopsided as a family. Children by two living fathers is never going to be a free spirit. She will have to wheel and deal and compromise and adjust her place and style of living to be fair to both sets.

A man who feels wronged by his wife but loves his children is never justified in venting his rage on her, much as he longs and may deserve to, because that will damage his children. And any man who falls in love with a mother ought to realise that he is being dealt a marked card.

Children, in short, complicate everything. They are the catalyst which turns wild free youth into cautious middle-age; which makes us learn to avert our eyes from sexy strangers, curb our dreams, stay sober in case the baby wakes, miss the rave-up because of parents' evening and look both ways when crossing the road. If for some reason this catalytic action fails to work, it nearly always ends in tears. But don't pour scorn on poor Paula: she is not unique.

It is surprising how little we acknowledge this. Even thirty years ago, before the 1960s had spread outward from the King's Road, it was still common thinking that the first baby marked the moment when you

put away childish things yourself. "Responsibilities" were much touted, and even hairstyles and clothes were expected to change. I can remember shocked muttering as a child in Suffolk when a young couple pushed out their pram wearing matching skin-tight jeans — and the poor kids were only about 20.

The wartime generation informed us that the dignity of procreation should lead naturally to the cutting of wild hair and the adoption of A-line skirts and Sta-Prest slacks. Great odium was heaped on any mother, in particular, who dyed her hair blonde or went to nightclubs. These were unmotherly things to do.

Well, there was a lot of nonsense in all that. Writers in recent years (myself among them) have said to women petrified of their first confinement: "Hey, loosen up, just because you've got a baby it doesn't mean you aren't the same girl you used to be." My own lament at the end of the 1970s was about those gruesome clinic worksheets with their "specimen daily routines" insisting on 06.30 feed; 07.00 Mother rinse nappies; 07.15 Mother prepares vegetables for puree; etc., on the ground that they never said things like 18.30 Mother dumps baby on neighbour and naps out for a pint and game of darts.

The old stiffness needed challenging, at least in small superficial things; but after a decade of wild-child mothers, wandering fathers and rocketing divorce figures, it is getting on for time we called a halt. Someone has to stand up and admit that yes, actually, it's true: having children is a rite of passage. And you aren't allowed to creep back down that passage into the sunlit world of sexy, boozey adolescent freedom. Parents, face it: it is your duty to be a bit dull. At least until children reach independence and you can decline into a disgraceful old age.

Unfortunately for the rock generation, the safest place for children to grow up undamaged is always going to be the uncool, humdrum, workaday world of a pig-ordinary marriage. All the better, of course, if it sees with attraction and heartfelt mutual devotion; but even a regime of tolerant kindness and wry reluctant faithfulness will do.

Hell, we had our turn at being young. We should have guessed it couldn't last for ever.

Where the tigers go to die

Bronwen Maddox

reports from the

Apec summit

Since arriving at the summit of South-East Asian nations in Vancouver, President Clinton has maintained a dogged insouciance. He took to the golf course in heavy drizzle, emerging to dismiss the Asian financial crisis simply as "a few little glitches in the road... we're working through them".

Although Asian leaders joined him in resisting doom-mongering, the financial crisis which has spread around the Pacific Rim to South Korea and Japan will dominate the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum. As talks opened yesterday, there were doubts that Apec members would meet the challenge.

Since its creation in 1989, the forum has failed to live up to hopes that it would be a significant force through which its 18 members would help to modernise each other's economies. Although President Clinton elevated it to summit status in 1993 in a drive to liberalise trade, it has maintained a self-congratulatory air, in which the Asian economic "miracle" has been used to justify closed markets and authoritarian policies.

Talk of the miracle has now gone, after South Korea's appeal to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for \$20 billion to shore up its fractured banking system, and yesterday's collapse of Yamaichi Securities. Only China remains ebullient: President Jiang Zemin says its economic situation is "excellent" and predicts growth this year of 9 per cent.

In private, American advisers acknowledge that even if matters get no worse, the world has changed. It is now inevitable that the stomp and devaluations will hamper growth in America and Europe, as Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman, recognised last week. The crisis will send Western trade deficits with the afflicted Asian countries higher. Investment, too, could be hit by the recently announced plans for an LG electronics complex in South Wales and a Hyundai microchip plant in Scotland could both be affected.

More subtly, Asia's economic woes will also change Western foreign policy, which has been based on the assumption that the Pacific boom will continue, and will help to counterbalance China's economic and military power, rebuild North Korea and liberalise trade.

Although America has so much at stake, it is handicapped in the battle to contain the crisis from spreading to markets around the world. In recent weeks Congress has denied Mr Clinton both fast-track powers to strike trade liberalisation pacts and an extra \$3.5 billion funding for the IMF for just such emergencies. In contrast, Britain, France, Germany and Italy have indicated that they would pay more to the IMF. For Mr Clinton, such chequebook diplomacy — such as America's \$50 billion bailout of Mexico earlier this decade — is not possible.

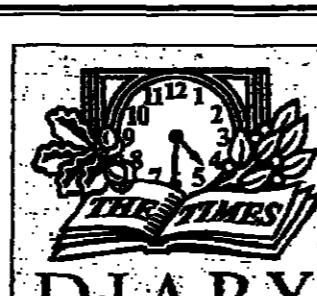
It is the response of Japan, not America, which is now critical. Yesterday there appeared to be grounds for cautious optimism that it is prepared to take the first steps in ensuring the stability of its banking system. Mitsuo Horiechi, the International Trade and Industry Minister, said: "Since the Japanese Government is seriously pushing the reforms, I would like the US to patiently watch us."

However, there are doubts among other delegations that Japan can successfully pull off the balancing trick of allowing bankrupt banks to fail, while recapitalising those which can be saved. Drawing that distinction will mean ignoring the web of favours and special interests between Government and the banks.

Despite widespread relief when South Korea finally called on Friday for help from the IMF, there are doubts about whether it will be able to carry through an IMF austerity programme in the face of domestic political opposition. Neither do many people in Vancouver think America is likely to win backing for its call for greater liberalisation, particularly of the world's financial markets. While Malaysia stands alone in its now-familiar call for immediate curbs on currency dealers, other delegations hint that the instinct of the most-affected countries will be to tighten control on their financial institutions.

The reasons why Apec has been self-congratulatory and ineffective in its eight-year life are fused with the causes of the present crisis — above all, the refusal of many countries to recognise the dark side of the Asian miracle. Cronyism, corruption and politically inspired investment have driven much of the expansion in lending which has now been revealed to be unsupportable. China, so triumphant yesterday, is hardly innocent of these faults.

For the moment, the vagaries of American domestic politics have put Mr Clinton where many Apec members say they want him: largely on the sidelines. Whether the response to the crisis is adequate will depend on whether the affected countries themselves, particularly Japan, are prepared to get to grips with their deliberately neglected problems at home.



Parisian fashion folk. "Tony is not exactly what you'd call a hunk," opines French Elle, "but women love him. If he has ears like Dumbo, it's simply to hear better. If he's losing his hair, it's simply to make him more masculine. He looks elegant in Armani suits, but at weekends throws on a sweater and becomes Monsieur Gap."

Cover blown

CONTRARY to suggestions that William Hague and John Redwood are now the best of friends, a

alarm. Rattle is to conduct the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Mozart Festival in January. Such is Rattle's standing in Austria, he will be guest of honour at the grand ball at the Golden Hall. And there Rattle's problems begin. For he is to lead off the dancing with a waltz. Rattle is no twinkletoe and the prospect of falling on his face is exercising him greatly. A crash course would seem to be in order but Rattle will not be joining the Come Dancing hopefuls for night classes. Instead, he has engaged Sir Anthony Dowell, no less, director of the Royal Ballet, to tutor his two left feet. A friend detects improvement. "It's not strictly ballroom but Simon should get through it without inflicting any injuries."

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THE firm's gone bust. Sell everything!



The duchess: slim chance

Duchess of York. She wants to star opposite Kevin Costner in the sequel to *The Bodyguard*. Costner claims Diana agreed to play a princess who falls in love with her bodyguard. Filming cannot start until a substitute has been found. Enter Fergie, who has thrown her tiara into the ring. "She is a tall and beautiful-looking lady so I doubt they would consider me," she says. "But I would do it, sure."

• JAMES WHALE, radio rottweiler, has been moonlighting as a waiter in the Harrogate restaurant run by his son. Have Yorkshire diners met their match?

JASPER GERARD



Next: meet the wife

on Sunday, to a debate: "Should cannabis be legalised?" Then comes the caveat. Please note this is a non-smoking zone."

Rattling yarn

SIMON RATTLE's prowess with the baton is not doubted. If his feet could only perform with such dexterity then a forthcoming engagement in Austria would not be causing the hirsute conductor such

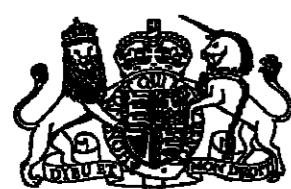
• AN invitation from that endearing companion, the Independent

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THE firm's gone bust. Sell everything!

THE DEATH of her "best friend" Diana, Princess of Wales, has not subdued the ambitions of the



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 24: The Duke of Edinburgh, also represented by The Queen, was present today at the Funeral of Prince and Baron of Hohenlohe-Langenburg which was held in the Church of the Evangelische Stadtkirche, Langenburg, Germany.

His Royal Highness, Senior Fellow, this evening attended the Royal Academy of Engineering New Fellow's Dinner at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London EC2.

The Queen was represented by General Sir Roger Wheeler (Aide-de-Camp General) and Service Personnel for the Life of General Sir John Hackett (formerly Aide-de-Camp General) which was held in St Martin-in-the-Bull's Church, London WC2, this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by General Sir Brian Kenney.

The Princess Royal was represented by Professor Graham Zellick.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Mr Andrew Palmer.

The Baroness Farrington of Ribblesdale (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahissari and welcomed His Excellency and Mrs Ahissari on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 24: The Prince Edward, this evening attended the British Land British Open Doubles Championship at the Queen's Club, Palliser Road, London W4.

ST JAMES'S PALACE November 24: The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Gedes at the Funeral of Princess Beatrix of

Hohenlohe-Langenburg which was held in the Church of the Evangelische Stadtkirche, Langenburg, Germany, today.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 24: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning visited the Piccadilly Theatre, London, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland, The Viscount Ridley KG.

Her Royal Highness later opened the NCH Action for Children Ashington Family Centre, South View, Ashington, Northumberland.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 24: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon opened the new extension to the Leonard Cheshire Home of St Bridget's, Rushington, Leicestershire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major-General Sir Philip Ward).

His Royal Highness this evening visited the Crowley Sea Cadets, London, and the Royal Welsh Guards, and opened the Cossack and Dragoon Guards, Royal Welsh Guards, Royal Hussars, and the Royal Yeomanry.

The following were elected officers of the Bakers' Company:

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended the election dinner of the Bakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House after the annual election service held at the Church of St Michael-at-Hill. The Ven Dr Brian Kirk-Dunham officiated and the Right Rev Michael Marshall, Assistant Bishop in London, preached the sermon.

At the dinner, Mr John L Moon, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Assistant Alan Willis and Judge Neil Denison QC, Common Sergeant of London, also spoke.

The following were elected officers of the Bakers' Company:

Master, Mr Christopher John Gillies, Upper Warden; Mr Robert Edward Allard, Second Warden; Mr John Thomas Townsend, Under Warden. Mr Anthony George came.

Broderers' Company

Princess Sarahh El Hassan was the principal guest at a Ladies' Dinner of the Broderers' Company held last night at Mercers' Hall. Among the guests were:

The Jordanian Ambassador and Mrs Amira, Sir Alastair Spender, former Ambassador in Jordan and Lady Ursula, former Ambassador to the CVO, MBE (Master of the Fletchers' Company) and Mrs Yvonne (the Masters') Jordanian and British embroidery was displayed before the dinner.

English-Speaking Union

The High Commissioner for Australia was the guest of honour at the English-Speaking Union of Birmingham branch of the English-Speaking Union held last night at the Council House, Birmingham, to mark its 50th anniversary. Councillor Peter Hollingsworth, chairman of St. Fergus Montgomery, former MP, 70; Lord Nasby; 61; Lord Richardson Dumbourne, KG, 52; Mr Richard Seifert, architect; 57; Mr L.P. Shurman, former Banking Ombudsman, 67; Lord Weatherill, 77; Sir Peter Wright, former director, Birmingham Royal Ballet, 71.

Anglo-Belgian Society

Vicomte Etienne Davignon was the principal guest and speaker at the Anglo-Belgian Society's annual dinner held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club, Knightsbridge, to mark King's Day (November 15). Viscount Montgomery of Almenien presided. The Ambassador of Belgium also spoke.

Thorney Island Society

Mr Piers Gough was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Thorney Island Society held last night at the Bass Street Hotel, Miss June Stubbs, chairman, presided.

School news

The King's School, Worcester

The Governors have appointed Mr Timothy Keyes as Headmaster of The King's School, Worcester, with effect from September 1998. Mr Keyes, who is currently Second Master at The Royal Grammar School, Guildford will succeed Dr John M. Moore, who will retire in August 1998 after fifteen years of distinguished service.

Dinners

The Royal Academy of Engineering

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, attended the 1997 New Fellows' Dinner held last night at the Drapers' Hall. The Speech of Welcome was given by the President, Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS. The Senior Fellow proposed the toast to the New Fellows and presented the Prince Philip Medal to Professor John Argys, FEng, FRS, and Dr Ray Clough in recognition of their developmental work on the formulation of finite element analysis. Mr Edward Gallagher, FEng, responded on behalf of the New Fellows.

Bakers' Company

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Master, Mr Christopher John Gillies, Upper Warden; Mr Robert Edward Allard, Second Warden; Mr John Thomas Townsend, Under Warden. Mr Anthony George came.

Broderers' Company

Princess Sarahh El Hassan was the principal guest at a Ladies' Dinner of the Broderers' Company held last night at Mercers' Hall. Among the guests were:

The Jordanian Ambassador and Mrs Amira, Sir Alastair Spender, former Ambassador in Jordan and Lady Ursula, former Ambassador to the CVO, MBE (Master of the Fletchers' Company) and Mrs Yvonne (the Masters') Jordanian and British embroidery was displayed before the dinner.

English-Speaking Union

The High Commissioner for Australia was the guest of honour at the English-Speaking Union of Birmingham branch of the English-Speaking Union held last night at the Council House, Birmingham, to mark its 50th anniversary. Councillor Peter Hollingsworth, chairman of St. Fergus Montgomery, former MP, 70; Lord Nasby; 61; Lord Richardson Dumbourne, KG, 52; Mr Richard Seifert, architect; 57; Mr L.P. Shurman, former Banking Ombudsman, 67; Lord Weatherill, 77; Sir Peter Wright, former director, Birmingham Royal Ballet, 71.

Anglo-Belgian Society

Vicomte Etienne Davignon was the principal guest and speaker at the Anglo-Belgian Society's annual dinner held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club, Knightsbridge, to mark King's Day (November 15). Viscount Montgomery of Almenien presided. The Ambassador of Belgium also spoke.

Thorney Island Society

Mr Piers Gough was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Thorney Island Society held last night at the Bass Street Hotel, Miss June Stubbs, chairman, presided.

School news

The King's School, Worcester

The Governors have appointed Mr Timothy Keyes as Headmaster of The King's School, Worcester, with effect from September 1998. Mr Keyes, who is currently Second Master at The Royal Grammar School, Guildford will succeed Dr John M. Moore, who will retire in August 1998 after fifteen years of distinguished service.



CHRIS HARRIS

The Royal Academy of Engineering

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, attended the 1997 New Fellows' Dinner held last night at the Drapers' Hall. The Speech of Welcome was given by the President, Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS. The Senior Fellow proposed the toast to the New Fellows and presented the Prince Philip Medal to Professor John Argys, FEng, FRS, and Dr Ray Clough in recognition of their developmental work on the formulation of finite element analysis. Mr Edward Gallagher, FEng, responded on behalf of the New Fellows.

Bakers' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended the election dinner of the Bakers' Company held last night at the Mansion House after the annual election service held at the Church of St Michael-at-Hill. The Ven Dr Brian Kirk-Dunham officiated and the Right Rev Michael Marshall, Assistant Bishop in London, preached the sermon.

At the dinner, Mr John L Moon, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Assistant Alan Willis and Judge Neil Denison QC, Common Sergeant of London, also spoke.

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Memorial service

General Sir John Hackett

The Queen was represented by General Sir Roger Wheeler and the Duke of Edinburgh by General Sir Brian Kenny at a service of thanksgiving for the life of General Sir John Hackett held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-fields.

The Princess Royal was represented by Professor Graham Zellick and the Duke of Kent by General Sir Brian Kenny.

The service was held at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, London SW1.

General Sir John Hackett

OBITUARIES

Major-General John Douglas-Withers, CBE, MC, died on November 3 aged 77. He was born on December 11, 1919.

A loyal servant of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, John Douglas-Withers was an able and courageous professional soldier. Committed to the highest standards, he was never happier than when training his officers and men on exercises which were demanding, realistic and, above all, fun.

Throughout the war he served as a forward observation officer (FOO) in the 113rd Field Regiment, which played a decisive part in the fighting at Salerno and in the ensuing Italian campaign. At a time when casualties among forward observation officers with infantry battalions were high, he led a charmed life, earning the confidence and respect of the 2nd/6th and 2nd/7th Queens, whom he supported throughout most of the campaign.

50th Division did not join the Eighth Army until it had reached Tunisia in March 1943, when Douglas-Withers was detached as an FOO to 4th Indian Division in order to gain combat experience. He took part in and survived the battles of the Mareth Line, Wadi Akarit and Enfidaville before returning to his own division for the invasion of Italy in September 1943, his regiment landing on the beaches at Salerno. Again, he survived that battle, which Wellington would have called "a damned close-run thing" — the combined British and American landing forces almost being driven back to their ships.

Thereafter, he fought continuously with 50th Division, participating in the crossings of the Volturno and Garigliano rivers, the battle of Monte Camino, the grim fighting at Anzio and the breaching of the Gothic Line, followed by the debilitating winter battles across the flooded river lines south of the River Po.

The action for which he was awarded his MC occurred on the night of October 22-23, 1943. He was acting as FOO to a battalion attacking a hill feature north of the Volturno. While the battalion was consolidating on its objective, German counter-attacks began, and he was forced to withdraw his observation post party into a company position



where he found its commander severely wounded and no other officers left. In the midst of heavy German artillery and mortar fire, he took command of the company while continuing to direct artillery defensive fire. But for his quick grasp of the situation and his prompt action, the position might well have been lost.

John Keppel Ingold Douglas-Withers was born into a military family. His father was Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. ("Bunny") Douglas-Withers, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, the South Lancashire Regiment. Bunny Douglas-Withers was an exuberant communicator who produced some of the more elaborate military displays of the interwar years, including the Aldershot Tattoo on Rushmore Arena.

Educated at Shrewsbury School, Christ Church, Oxford, and the University of Poitiers, John Douglas-Withers became an associate of the Institute of Linguistics in French and German. He undertook a 1,000-mile cycling holiday in 1938 through Europe, including witnessing Hitler's *Anschluss* in Austria. Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1940, he was posted to 113rd Field Regiment.

After the war and gunnery staff training, he formed the new signals wing at the School of Artillery, moving on to run the first trials of helicopters as Air OPs. By 1948, he was commanding E Battery of 1st Royal Horse Artillery in the Canal Zone of Egypt and later became its adjutant. The Staff College, Camberley, followed in 1950, whence he became GSO 2 in Military Operations

(MO 3) in the War Office, dealing with the Middle East. He moved next to Germany to join 3rd RFA in 1953, but found that his posting had been switched to The King's Troop.

Such an appointment was the dream of every horse-minded gunner. Although maintaining the impeccable standards required of The King's Troop was demanding work, he found he could hunt regularly besides taking part in showjumping, hunting trials and point to points. After enjoying three pleasant and rather old-fashioned years, he returned to the Staff College as an instructor in 1956, and was promoted brevet lieutenant-colonel (a form of accelerated promotion) in 1958.

Returning for a short spell of regimental duty in 1959, he commanded G Battery (Mc-

car's Troop) in 4th RHA before becoming Assistant Military Secretary in the War Office (1961-62), responsible for staffing promotions and postings of full colonels and brigadiers.

At last senior enough to be given substantive regimental command, he took over the excellent, but perhaps over-serious, 49th Field Regiment at Lippstadt in Germany. He commented on his efficiency by saying: "All I had to do was to take off the brakes, encourage laughter and enjoy myself."

After attending the Imperial Defence College in 1965, he was appointed to command 6th Armoured Brigade at Munster in Germany in the following year. He considered this to be the high point of his career, when he could use his skills as a trainer of soldiers for the last time. He was particularly proud of the performance of his brigade on one of the early German corps exercises where it excelled.

At the end of his command, he stayed on in Germany as Chief of Staff, 1st British Corps, at Bielefeld. The illness of the Corps Commander threw an additional burden on his shoulders during the busy period of 1968-70. He was appointed CBE in 1969. Although a touch disappointed not to have been given a division in 1970, he settled down to command the large South-West District.

His last army job was Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics) in the Ministry of Defence. He was involved not only in the crises of the early 1970s in Malta, Honduras and Uganda, but also in the perennial struggle with the Government to maintain the principle of comparability in the Armed Forces pay negotiations.

After he retired from the Army in 1974, he joined Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong, which he described as "one of the nicest regiments I have ever been in". He retired again in 1980 but continued to work for the company part-time, helping Lord Blake to write the history of Jardine's. He kept in close touch with the Royal Regiment of Artillery as a Colonel Commandant, a member of the Master Gunner's Committee and as Honorary Colonel of 49th Field Regiment.

He married Sylvia (Dickie) Beatrice Dean in 1945. She survives him, together with a son and a daughter, the former of whom is the present Director Royal Artillery.

Jorge Mas Canosa, leader of Miami's Cuban exile community, died from lung cancer on November 23 aged 58.

He was born in Santiago de Cuba on September 21, 1939.

JORGE MAS CANOSA was a millionaire businessman and for nearly two decades the driving force behind opposition to Fidel Castro among Cuban exiles in the United States. He was the chairman and co-founder of the Cuban American National Foundation, a powerful exile group which has played a key role in shaping Washington's unbending policy of opposition towards the Castro regime.

His passionate, crusading style of politics won him many admirers in the Cuban exile community, while his relentless dedication to the cause of a "free Cuba" secured him the respect of political leaders in Washington and abroad. Mas Canosa's influence was further assured by the large sums of campaign cash raised by the foundation and its wealthy members.

The son of a Cuban army veterinarian, Jorge Mas Canosa left Cuba as a student in 1960, after Castro's communist revolution. In Miami he trained for the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 but never made it ashore. He briefly joined the US Army but resigned his commission. He had various jobs — milkman, stevedore, shoe salesman and dishwasher — before he went into business.

In 1968 he bought a small electrical contracting business and later merged with a construction firm to create MasTec. Last year the company's earnings reached almost \$500 million. A survey in March by *Hispanic Business* magazine estimated Mas Canosa's personal worth at \$257 million and placed him fifth in its list of the richest Hispanics in the US.

Mas Canosa's political profile took off with the Cuban American National Foundation, founded in 1981, to lobby Congress against a negotiated solution with the Castro Government. With more than 50,000 members, the foundation is by far the most powerful organisation in the exile community, and its board of directors includes some of the country's richest and most influential Cubans.

Through its Free Cuba political action committee, the foundation has poured more



than \$4.2 million into the campaign coffers of congressional and presidential candidates of both parties. The foundation successfully lobbied Congress to tighten the US embargo against Cuba, including 1990 restrictions on foreign companies trading with Cuba at odds with its allies.

Under Mas Canosa's leadership, the foundation also persuaded Congress to pay for the creation of Radio and TV Marti, which broadcast from the United States into Cuba. Although Cuba has jammed the signal — TV Marti cannot be seen on the island — Congress continues to fund the network and has spent about \$250 million keeping it on air.

With the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989, the foundation eagerly began to anticipate Castro's demise. Mas Canosa was appointed chairman of the Florida Free Cuba Commission to advise the state Governor on the economic and social impact on South Florida of Castro's fall. The foundation drew up a constitution for Cuba and recruited American companies to join what it called a blue ribbon commission to "establish a blueprint for a free-market economy in a post-Castro Cuba".

But there were some defeats. In the summer of 1994, when Castro unleashed 30,000 rafters on South Florida, Mas Canosa flew to Washington to demand a US naval blockade of the island. He did not get his way. When the Clinton Administration secretly met Cuban officials to end the crisis through an immigration accord, it was a humiliating

blow for Mas Canosa. Cubans picked up at sea would no longer be allowed into the United States, ending the special treatment they had been afforded for decades as victims of a communist regime.

But when Cuban MiGs shot down two small Miami exile aircraft in February 1996, the doors of the White House were opened again. President Clinton punished Castro by cutting off direct flights to Cuba from Miami and tightening the rules on exile families sending aid and visiting relatives in Cuba. In 1996 a new, tougher embargo law was passed.

Critics accused Mas Canosa and the foundation of going too far by using intimidation tactics to silence opponents. Mas Canosa often branded those who opposed him as communist agents of Cuba, and boasted that he could muster the US authorities against those who stood in his way.

His fiery temper also got him into trouble. He once caused a stir when he challenged a Miami city commissioner to a duel. In 1990 he lost a libel suit against his estranged younger brother, who had accused him of bribing local politicians to win lucrative public contracts for the family construction firm.

His critics saw in Mas Canosa the same dictatorial streak that characterised Castro's rule. Although his name was often mentioned as a future President of Cuba, he publicly denied any such ambition. "The only thing Jorge Mas Canosa aspires to is the liberty of Cuba," he said.

He is survived by his wife Irma, and three sons.

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LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
DEATH OF JOHN
CLARENCE DODSON
COMPANIES COURT**
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
DEATH OF JOHN CLARENCE
DODSON
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
the Order of the High Court of
Quebec dated the 22nd October 1997
and the Order of the Superior Court
of Quebec dated the 10th November
1997, in each case in favour of the
estate of John Clarence Dodson,
deceased, and in accordance with
the provisions of the Act respecting
the administration of estates, is
hereby published.

JOHN CLARENCE DODSON,
deceased, was a citizen of
Quebec, Canada, and resided
at 1000, Avenue des Pins, Montreal,
Quebec, H3C 1M2, Canada.

JOHN CLARENCE DODSON,
deceased, died on 11 November,
1997, at the age of 75 years.

JOHN CLARENCE DODSON,
deceased, died in the
Province of Quebec, Canada.

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Protecting name of product

Cochosuisse Union des Fabricantes Suisses de Chocolat et Others v Cadbury Ltd

Before Mr Justice Laddie

Judgment October 29

For the purposes of a passing-off action, what counted was whether the words used upon which the plaintiff relied: if they had, it mattered not whether they had it by accident through prolonged endeavours, or in spite of poor husbandry by the plaintiff.

A substantial number of those members of the public who regarded "Swiss chocolate" as the name for a group of reputable products, would be confused into thinking that confectionery made in Birmingham and bearing, in addition to the maker's name and logo, the words "Swiss Chocolat" in larger letters, was a member of that group.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in granting to the plaintiffs Cochouisse's main

labelling with the words "Swiss Chocolat", in large gold-rimmed letters, a new bar manufactured by it, containing honey-flavoured milk chocolate and including small pieces of almond nougat.

Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Colin Birss for the plaintiffs; Mr Michael Block and Mr Richard Meade for Cadbury.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that one of Cochouisse's main tasks since its formation in 1945 had been to protect the denomination of origin "Swiss" against illegitimate use; to which end it had taken steps more than 600 times, mostly by warnings, with no actual proceedings before now in the UK.

Both sides had agreed the relevant principles to have been set out by Lord Fraser in *Erven Warmink BV v. Townend & Sons (Fruit) Ltd* ([1979] AC 731, 753-6) (*the Advoocat*).

His Lordship had found that issue most difficult but had concluded that, although it was likely that fewer would be confused than those confused would still be substantial enough in number for the plaintiffs to succeed.

Next, Cadbury had launched a heavy "unclean hands" attack on the plaintiffs for:

(a) failing to take any reasonable steps to ensure that "Swiss", in relation to chocolate, continued to denote to the public in England chocolate made in Switzerland;

(b) relying on *Newman v. Pinter* ([1957] 4 RPC 508) misleading the public into believing that chocolate not made in Switzerland was made there.

His Lordship thought that his approach to that attack should mirror that taken by the Court of Appeal in *Habib Bank Ltd v. Habib Bank AG Zurich* ([1982] RPC 1); namely, in relation to estoppel, a plaintiff should fall only in those cases where the court concluded it would be un-

conscionable for him to get the relief to which he would otherwise be entitled.

At the market for Lindt chocolates had become international, it had set up manufacturing centres in Germany, France and possibly elsewhere, while ensuring that its products were of the same composition and quality as those made in Switzerland.

The next issue was whether Cadbury's use of "Swiss Chocolat" on its chocolate was likely to confuse a substantial number of the public into believing it was a Swiss chocolate.

His Lordship had found that issue most difficult but had concluded that, although it was likely that fewer would be confused than those confused would still be substantial enough in number for the plaintiffs to succeed.

The allegations made against Seward, centring on Toffeeone and a milk chocolate bar sold under the name "Milka", were even weaker.

Finally, although the ability of Lindt and Seward to sue in a representative capacity was not disputed, Cadbury had, on the authority of *Compagnie del Parco di Parma v Marks and Spencer plc* ([1991] RPC 35), in its defence, sought to restrain the plaintiffs from proceeding with the case, on the basis that the first to sue in a representative capacity was entitled to do so.

Cochouisse was content to accept *Parma Ham* as correct for the time being, while reserving the right to argue the point in a higher court. His Lordship would therefore formally hold that Cochouisse had locus standi to sue only in its own behalf.

Solicitors: Bird & Bird; Willoughby & Partners.

No appeal against second decision

Regina v Special Adjudicator, Ex parte Secretary of State for the Home Department

Before Mr Justice Lightman

Judgment October 22

A person claiming political asylum had no right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State for the Home Department that his second application for asylum was not a fresh application and therefore would not be further entertained.

Mr Justice Lightman, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment granting the application of the Home Secretary for a declaration that the special adjudicator had no jurisdiction to hear the purported appeal of Mr Mahmut Cakabay, a person seeking political asylum, and that his purported notice of appeal had no effect.

The special adjudicator played no active part in the proceedings. The application was opposed by Mr Cakabay, as an interested party.

Mr Richard Plender, QC and Ms Eleanor Grey for the secretary

of state; Mr Andrew Nicol, QC and Mr Mark Henderson for Mr Cakabay.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the special adjudicator had jurisdiction to hear only those appeals contained in section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993.

He also had jurisdiction to decide whether an intended appeal fell within that jurisdiction. The jurisdiction was triggered when a notice of appeal was duly served.

The adjudicator had to decide whether the secretary of state had taken a decision specified in section 8 of the 1993 Act. That did not include the rejection to the claim of asylum itself.

Under the statutory scheme there could have been no decision within section 8 if there had been a fresh application by Mr Cakabay.

The critical issue was not whether the special adjudicator had jurisdiction to decide whether the asylum-seeker had made a fresh application, but the legal test to be applied by the adjudicator in deciding whether he had jurisdiction to hear the appeal.

The secretary of state argued

that the test was whether he himself had decided that there was no fresh application, for that was conclusive.

Mr Cakabay argued that the test was whether the special adjudicator considered that there was a fresh application.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant authorities. It was established that an asylum-seeker could make more than one claim for asylum but if the later claim was a fresh claim, sufficiently different from the earlier to admit of a realistic prospect of success.

Under Rule 346 of the Immigration Rules (HC 395), the secretary of state decided whether the applicant's further representations should be treated as a fresh application.

That raised the question whether an appeal lay to the special adjudicator against the decision of the secretary of state that a claim was not a fresh claim. His Lordship observed that he was not bound by authority in deciding that question.

In his Lordship's view, no appeal lay to the special adjudicator for the following reasons. A decision not to treat representations

as a fresh application was not a decision falling within section 8 and therefore did not trigger the adjudicator's jurisdiction.

Parliament could have conferred on an applicant a right of appeal in respect of a decision that an application was not fresh but it did not do so. His Lordship accordingly concluded that the judgment whether or not there had been a fresh application was for the secretary of state alone to make.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Howe & Co, Ealing.

No negligence in following advice

Lewisham Investment Partnership Ltd and Another v Morgan

Before Mr Justice Neuberger

Judgment November 4

Although to apply the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Iceland Frozen Foods plc v Starlight Investments Ltd* ([1992] 1 EGLR 126) conflicted with the presumption that the hypothesis on which rent should be fixed upon a review should bear as close a resemblance to reality as possible, so that a puisne judge would be entitled to feel himself not bound by it, a professional valuer, who, on advice by a solicitor that he was bound by it, had followed it, was bound by it.

However in *Zuballi v Harrow* ([1993] 1 EGLR 127, 128) Lord Justice Hoffmann had said, with his brethren's agreement: "Valuation is not an exact science; it involves questions of judgment which experts might differ without forfeiting their claim to professional competence..."

"The issue is not whether the experts' valuation was right in the sense of being a figure which a judge after hearing all the evidence would determine. It is whether he has acted in accordance with practices which are regarded as acceptable by a respectable body of opinion in his profession."

Yet one could imagine a case where a valuer's overall figure fell, without negligence, well outside the permissible bracket.

His Lordship, after analysing the evidence on (i) taken on its own, rejected (i) on its own, essentially because the plaintiffs' expert had accepted that in the absence of success on complaints (2) and (3), he could not say that no reasonable expert could have assessed Unit 62 on the overall method.

He said that Mr Morgan said he

had taken the view that *Iceland* precluded him from taking into account the fact that the hypothetical, like the actual, tenant could convert Unit 62 into two or more self-contained units, up to three of which could be sublet.

It was well established that a judicial conclusion as to the meaning of words in one document was neither binding nor conclusive as to the meaning of even very similar words in another document; see *Pioneer Shipping Ltd v BTP Tioxide Ltd* ([1982] AC 724, 749); *Aspen v Seddon* ([1975] LR 10 Ch App 394, 396, 397-8) and *Lawrie plc v Bodfield Ltd* ([1987] 1 EGLR 124, 125).

In the circumstances, his Lordship would have held it clearly right to assess the market rent of Unit 62 on the basis that the hypothetical tenant could be someone who wanted to subdivide Unit 62.

But the fact that, if it had been up to his Lordship to assess the market rent of Unit 62, he would have been prepared to decline to follow *Iceland*, did not assist the plaintiffs, for Mr Morgan had secured legal advice on the proper interpretation of *Iceland* from a partner in *Tinmoss* Salter Dechert, who had clearly advised Mr Morgan that he was bound by it.

In those circumstances, no case of negligence had been made out against Mr Morgan in respect of any of the complaints made.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Hammond Suddards.

No change in vocation in change of hours

Edmunds v Coleman (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Lightman

Judgment November 4

For the purposes of Schedule D income tax, a taxpayer who changes from carrying on his business activities on a part-time basis to a full-time basis does not affect a discontinuance of his previous vocation and the commencement of a new one.

Mr Justice Lightman was relevant to the method issue and wrongly considered that it precluded him from using the zoning method:

(2) failed to take legal advice on whether, and how, ICI was relevant to the method issue and wrongly considered that it precluded him from using the zoning method;

(3) failed to take into account that under the terms of the hypothetical lease to be valued, for rental review purposes, the tenant would be permitted to undertake Unit 62.

It might be inferred from *Cranehead Securities v York Montague Ltd* ([1996] 1 EGLR 30); *Mount Banking Corporation Ltd v Brian Cooper and Co* ([1992] 2 EGLR 142, 144-5, 149) and *Singer and Friedlander v John D. Wood*

per cent of his time working freelance. His employment ended in 1992 and thereafter he worked freelance on a full-time basis, his profits from that work increasing enormously after June 1992.

The commissioners had held that "the change from the taxpayer conducting business activities on a part-time basis to his full-time engagement in business was of such a character that a new profession was commenced".

That decision could only be disturbed if it was one which they could not properly reach on the evidence. They had accepted that the taxpayer provided the same services throughout, the only difference being in the hours spent and the profitability of his endeavours.

As a matter of law, the intensification by a person carrying on a vocation or profession of his efforts or the increase in the return for his efforts could not effect a discontinuance of his previous, and the commencement of a new, vocation or profession.

What was required for such

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

GEPE Gabinete Tecnico de Gestao de Projectos Educacionais

INVITATION TO BID

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Second Education Project - Credit 2300-MOZ

EDUARDO MONDANE UNIVERSITY BASIC SCIENCES FACULTY

SUPPLY SPECIAL FURNITURE AND RELATED SERVICES

Internationals Bid No.1-MEDU/CIDA/97

GEPE Code No. GEPE/BM2/MOB-UEM/FBS/97

1. The Government of the Republic of Mozambique has received a credit from the World Bank/IDB towards the cost of the Education Project II and it is intended that part of the funds be utilized for the purchase of Special Furniture and Related Services for the Basic Sciences Faculty of Eduardo Mondlane University at Maputo.
2. GEPE, the project management unit of the Ministry of Education, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Special Furniture and Related Services for the Basic Sciences Faculty of Eduardo Mondlane University, in a single Lot.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased after Thursday, 27th of November 1997 at:

GEPE
Gabinete Técnico de Gestao de Projectos Educacionais
Rua Joaquim Lapa N° 22, Terceiro Andar Maputo, Mozambique
Telephone: (238-1) 430204, 32424

Fax: (238-1) 430204, Telex: 679 GEPE MO

for a non-refundable fee of USD \$150.00, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, for each set. Bidders who request that bidding documents be sent to them through International carrier services must include an additional fee of USD\$125.00. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD\$2,000.00 or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency. National bidders may provide an equivalent Bid Security in Meticais. Bid shall be submitted to GEPE at the above address, on or before at 10:00 local time of Friday, 9th January 1998, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend the bid opening.

General Director Date: November 20, 1997

THE INTERNET

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لهم من لا يرى

Time to choose your £1,000 December team

The story so far . . .

It warms the heart to see football tradition upheld, doesn't it? I know exactly what you mean. When young Frank Lampard scored that goal at Elland Road on Sunday, he went and danced round the same corner flag as his old Dad did when he scored the goal that put West Ham into the 1980 Cup Final. It brought a tear to the eye. Actually, I meant your uncanny ability to select players who have nightmares the following weekend.

Now, hang on a minute . . .

Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper that Lampard scored against, is one of yours, isn't he?

Yes, but he kept a clean sheet in the first half, and Leeds did win.

But your other Leeds man, Molenaar, didn't play, did he?

Well, that's George Graham's fault, not mine. And you're always saying that forwards I think about signing don't score, but I thought about signing Andy Booth, and he put Sheffield Wednesday ahead against Arsenal. And did you sign him?

Not as such.

Big Ron did OK, though, I must admit.

As I predicted. But then players are always out to impress a new manager. It might not be so easy next week at Southampton. David Hirst is playing against Wednesday, his old club, and he'll be extra-keen to score. I'm thinking about signing him.

You've been reading the newspapers, haven't you?

This is advanced strategizing by your standards.

Yes, but I'm getting close to my transfer limit.

Pardon me? You didn't enter the transfer market until a few weeks ago.

True, but I've gone a bit mad since then.

Don't forget you're entitled to 20 more transfers after December 13.

That's what I'm relying on.

But before then, there's another player revaluation. If you can get a couple of people in who are then revalued up, it gives you more money to play with.

Any hot insider tips?

I know no more than you do. But look at players who have exceeded expectations.

Do any examples come to mind?

The two Italians at Derby, especially Baiano, who has scored a few goals. Steve Walsh at Leicester — only £1.5 million, and he's scored 29 points. But think about unloading any players whose value might drop.

Any of my players in that category?

No more than about eleven of them, I should say . . .

Languishing in the lower reaches of the league? Fear not — a number of players leapt more than 35,000 places last week

If a week is a long time in politics, the same is even truer of Interactive Team Football. Our leaders can see their popularity ratings rise and fall; parliamentary candidates find that 21,000 or so votes can go missing; but seldom do any politicians experience a rise as meteoric as that of Mr T. Gregory, of Belper, in Derbyshire. In seven days, his ITF team, Alton Wonders, on the back of a 40-point weekend, jumped no fewer than 38,678 places in the main ITF listings, taking him from 109,244th to the comparatively lofty heights of 70,566th.

For some of Mr Gregory's players, Saturday was indeed a day of fantasy football. Although Peter Schmeichel, his overall top points-scorer, had a relatively poor weekend, managing only one point, Arjan De Zeeuw and Des Walker, his central defenders, both enjoyed rare victories and even rarer clean sheets; Jeff Kenna of Blackburn Rovers and Celtic's Tommy Boyd, the full-backs, were both on winning sides. Three of his midfield players, Neil Ardley of Wimbledon, Nicky Butt of Manchester United and Steano Erario of Derby, scored goals, the last two in victories, while Derby's win over Coventry City was also worth three points to Jim Smith, Mr Gregory's choice as manager.

The only player who made no contribution over the week-



HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on
0692 884 643
50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public telephones cost twice as much

end was Trond Egil Solvedt, of Coventry City, who did not play. If Stan Collymore's "goal" for Aston Villa against Everton had not been disallowed for offside, who knows how much further he might have climbed?

To some extent, ease of movement up or down the table all depends on your position in the league. A higher score than Mr. Gregory's, 43 by Mr. M. Earley's Earleybirds, resulted in a jump of only 33,963 places, to 44,721st.

The higher up the lists you are, the stiffer the competition. For example, Mr. Gregory's 40 points would have given last week's fifth-placed team no more than a share of this week's leadership. As any politician will tell you, it's tough at the top — but it's hell anywhere else.



Francesco Baiano, left, with the new December ITF evaluations coming up next Monday, it's players like Derby's Italian striker a frequent scorer over recent weeks, who may have their value enhanced. He is currently worth £2 million

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0271 412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

THE TIMES
Guide
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IN BRIEF

Courts to
listen to
victims on
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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL 25

Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

A recent influx of top players into ITF has brought the chance to buy some exciting young strikers for your team

Interactive Team Football entrants looking for some fresh faces to liven up their teams have been pleased to note some significant recent additions to the ITF lists, including some of the most talented young forwards to emerge for several seasons.

A valuation of £4.5 million reflects the enormous potential of Michael Owen, the Liverpool prodigy who scored on his league debut within minutes of coming on as a substitute against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park last season, and got his first Anfield goal against Spurs two weeks ago.

Across town, Everton's Danny Cadamarteri has been attracting rave notices. He marked his full debut with a goal against Barnsley at Goodison Park, and he followed that up with a strike to settle the first Merseyside derby of the season, guaranteeing him an instant place in the folklore of the blue half of

Liverpool — yours for only £2.5 million.

Valued between the two is Kevin Davies, who first came to nationwide attention when his hat-trick for Chesterfield at Burnley put Bolton out of last season's FA Cup. His transfer to the south coast was virtually the last act of Graeme Souness's management at The Dell, but it was a parting gift that the club has reason to be grateful for. His goal against Everton, a solo run from the half-way line past most of the defence, caused the country to sit up and take notice, and his good form continued with a goal at Newcastle on Saturday.

Joe Kinnear has also unearthed another new talent

Problems with ITF?
Call the help line
01582 702720



SKY sports
interactive

DECEMBER REVALUATIONS: SEE NEXT MONDAY'S TIMES

THE SECOND player revaluation of the 1997-98 Interactive Team football season takes place next Monday, December 1. The revaluation takes effect from midnight on Sunday November 30, and a list of new player values will be printed in the Sport section of MONDAY'S Times in addition to the on-screen information available to entrants via Sky and the Internet.

A change in the total value of your squad which takes it over £35 million does not mean you must make transfers to reduce the total; in effect you have made a profit which can then be used as you see fit. Equally, a fall in the total value of your team does not allow you to spend the difference between the new value and the £35 million starting budget.

Valuation changes can be dramatic. In October, Marco Negri's price shot up from £3.5 million to £6.5 million, while that of his compatriot, Paolo Di Canio, dropped from £6.5 to £3 million.

NICK SZCZEPANIK



Cadamarteri: the young Evertonian with a growing reputation is a recent addition to ITF

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

IN

51004	Machelle Padovano	Crystal Palace	£2.5m
60102	Alex Miller	Aberdeen	£1.5m
62802	Christian Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	£2.0m

OUT

60101	Roy Aitken	Aberdeen	£1.5m
60801	Gerry Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	£2.5m

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

□ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

□ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

□ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

□ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

□ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

□ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

□ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2 -7
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-3 44
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0 28
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0 -34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	8 42
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	7 25
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0 0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	10 7
10801	D De Geoy	Chelsea	3.00	2 34
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-2 25
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0 0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0 29
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	3 27
11201	S Dyletra	Dundee United	2.00	-7 3
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	2 -5
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	-3 3
11501	G Rousselot	Hearts	1.50	-4 38
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0 0
11602	O Gottschalksson	Hibernian	1.50	2 40
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-9 -15
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	3 40
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	7 45
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	2 34
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	1 63
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0 0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	0 17
12401	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	4 23
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	8 -10
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	0 0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	8 21
12801	I Walker	Tottenham H	3.00	0 24
12901	L Milne	West Ham Utd	2.00	-2 5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	-6 34

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	-1 -20
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	-2 13
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	-1 -1
30203	G Grindani	Arsenal	2.00	-1 14
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0 11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0 6
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	5 19
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	5 -16
30402	A Moeza	Barnsley	0.50	5 -15
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	1 -1
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	0 22
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn R	2.50	5 18
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	5 5
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0 5
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	4 8
30603	C Farlough	Bolton W	1.00	0 0
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	4 5
30605	E Amnoni	Celtic	1.50	5 5
30606	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0 2
30607	F Rieper	Celtic	3.00	4 25
30608	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0 19
30609	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0 8
30610	D McNamee	Chelsea	2.50	0 11
30611	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0 -1
30612	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0 -1
30613	L Dash	Coventry City	1.50	-2 13
30614	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2 0
30615	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	-2 0
30616	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0 8
30617	A Linghan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0 7
30618	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0 0
30619	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	0 0
30620	G Hallie	Leeds Utd	2.00	1 12
30621	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0 11
30622	L Reddie	Leeds Utd	1.50	1 10
30623	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	4 38
30624	P Kamark	Leicester City	2.00	4 23
30625	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	4 29
30626	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00	4 4
30627	Bansley	Liverpool	3.00	0 5
30628	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	-1 9
30629	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0 16
30630	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0 25
30631	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0 21
30632	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0 0
30633	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0 27
30634	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 8
30635	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1 9
30636	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0 1
30637	A Platone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	1 8
30638	S Porritti	Rangers	3.50	0 25
30639	J Bjornlund	Rangers	3.50	0 20
30640	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	-1 -1
30641	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	5 25
30642	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	5 0
30643	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	4 -3
30644	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	-2 3
30645	D Rydell	Southampton	1.00	-1 6
30646	K Monkou	Tottenham H	0.50	1 5
30647	S McCluskey	Tottenham H	3.00	0 0
30648	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	0 3</td

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

NEWS

Go-ahead for Whitehall sale

All government departments will be allowed to sell their assets and go into business as commercial enterprises under proposals unveiled by the Treasury. Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, published a 550-page *National Asset Register* listing the land, buildings, equipment and art owned by the Government. Treasury sources believed the total valuation would be at least £300 billion. **Pages 1, 6**

Yamaichi chief sobs as firm collapses

Sobbing with shame and humiliation the president of Yamaichi Securities begged for work for his 7,500 employees, as his firm collapsed with liabilities of \$24 billion (£14.2 billion). "It breaks my heart that the situation has turned out like this," Shohei Nozawa said as the securities firm marked its 100th birthday by going into oblivion. **Page 1, 14**

Spencer 'affairs'

Earl Spencer, the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, had affairs with up to 12 women during his marriage, a South African court was told. **Page 1**

Hunting ban

As campaigners mobilised for Friday's vote in the House of Commons the Government announced that hunts have been banned from digging out foxes on Ministry of Defence land. **Page 2**

BBC climbdown

The BBC made an embarrassing High Court climbdown over a long-running dispute over who should profit from the American rights to the detective series *Dalziel & Pascoe*. **Page 3**

IRA rift

The mother of the hunger striker Bobby Sands has intervened to help prevent the rift in the IRA and Sinn Féin from deepening, republican sources said. **Page 4**

Wrong choice

Truants were cleaning car wind-screens at a traffic lights when they decided that a chauffeur-driven limousine looked like a good prospect. It was Baroness Blackstone, the Minister for Education and Employment. **Page 5**

Hutchence mystery

The rock star Michael Hutchence died from hanging, but it was still not confirmed last night that he committed suicide. **Page 15**

He's called the hidden paw

Downing Street went to extraordinary lengths to disprove reports that Humphrey the cat had not been killed off by Cherie Blair but was alive and well in a new home in the suburbs. Under strict security conditions normally reserved for the Budget one handpicked camera crew and photographer were led in a cloak-and-dagger cross country chase. **Page 1**



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the Archbishops of York, Dr David Hope, at the opening of the General Synod

BUSINESS

Yamaichi: Japan's fourth largest stockbrokers has been placed in liquidation. More than 300 in London will lose their jobs. **Page 27**

Casino: The secretive Barclays twins, David and Frederick, were said to have no financial interest in the company bidding to win a casino licence for the London Ritz, which the Barclays own. **Page 27**

Inflation: Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, suggested the Government would lower its inflation target because 2.5 per cent may be too high for entry to a single currency. **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 8.2 to 498.6. Sterling fell from 104.5 to 104.2 after a rise from \$1.6895 to \$1.6924 but a fall from DM2.9531 to DM2.9368. **Page 30**

Mandelson: Tony Blair's chief of staff, Noel Edmonds, out of £70,000 in a phone powerboat scheme, is peddling unapproved treatment to dying AIDS and cancer sufferers. **Page 12**

Aids cure hoax

Basil Wainwright, who once swindled Noel Edmonds out of £70,000 in a phone powerboat scheme, is peddling unapproved treatment to dying AIDS and cancer sufferers. **Page 12**

French tensions

Insults flew between the rival camps of Lionel Jospin and President Chirac, amid predictions that their power-sharing is heading for an early break-up. **Page 13**

Listening President

His cholesterol is down and his injured knee has fully recovered but at St President Clinton now wears a symbol of advancing age: a pair of hearing aids. **Page 15**

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Anything can happen. Yesterday's long-tailed collapse of Yamaichi Securities could even prove to be the final catastrophic collapse before Japan's financial system turns round. The world's number two economy has suffered a spiral of financial decline since its bubble burst in 1990. There has to be an end, but it will not come for a while yet without a discernible change in policy in Tokyo.

After Wall Street's collapse in 1929, shares did finally ground in the summer of 1932, albeit with the Dow Jones average at only 42. Britain's dispiriting equity and property price collapse of 1973-74 seemed to be getting even worse when Burmah Oil was rescued by the Bank of England as 1975 opened. Instead, that proved to be the turning point.

The demise of Yamaichi, following the Bank of Hokkaido, is like earlier failures of Japanese institutions only big enough to cause any investor to gasp and worry. Yamaichi still followed old Japanese customs when the supporting mechanisms of the corporate state had been knocked away. So did others.

Logically, Yamaichi's fate should make life harder for others, whatever soothing words the authorities put out. Since the Nikkei share index peaked at nearly 39,000 at the end of 1989, investors have three times seen it tumble to about 15,000 and then rebound, most recently a fortnight ago. If shares plunge

through this support level, the ground is the limit. If they hold, there is a chance the Yamaichi drama will prove a true crisis.

Japan's economy seemed to recover from recession in 1995-96, but recovery was nipped in the bud when the Government prematurely tightened taxes by more than 2 per cent of national income to pay the recession bill. Money is cheap already, too cheap for hard-pressed investors.

So the obvious way for the Japanese Government to help is the way few now dare to consider: printing money to support the financial system.

Hong Kong, London and New York were right to avoid a panic reaction to the news from Tokyo. The risk is not yet one of financial contagion, since the causes of Yamaichi's collapse have no echo in the West. The financial risk is that the withdrawal of funds from US bond markets by Japanese institutions will accelerate again if the Nikkei crumbles, raising long rates.

The more serious risk is to the world economy. Japan and the wounded Asian "tiger" economies account for more than a fifth of world output and are likely to be locked in recession for years. They could push the rest of

us over the brink. Only the US economy and the EU bloc are bigger. The former is at a stage when a mild recession is as big a danger as inflation accelerating. After next year, EU countries signing up for monetary union will be keener to establish the credentials of their new currency than to sustain their recoveries.

Western markets would be as foolish to ignore this threat as Tokyo was to close its eyes to the meaning of the 1987 crash.

Horses for courses at GEC

For a man who has spent 39 years with the same company, Sir Roger Hurn has earned an impressive reputation as an agent of change. If today brings the expected confirmation of his biggest change yet, a move to the chairmanship of GEC, then Lord Weinstock's creation will be assured of entering the

new millennium in good shape. That needs to be radically different to today's.

The former Agriculture Minister, Lord Prior, has proved to be a far more effective chairman of GEC than seemed likely when he took on the role. His affable style made him a super-salesman for the company as he traversed the world, leaving Lord Weinstock ensconced in GEC's meagre headquarters, counting the pennies and ruling out acquisitions in favour of joint ventures.

Prior's role was clear: to open the doors, bring in the contracts and not interfere with the way Lord Weinstock ran his business. Today GEC needs a very different chairman, and Sir Roger fits the bill perfectly.

Weinstock chose to hand over his title to George Simpson, although the power to go with it took a little rising out. Whatever his inclinations, the current corporate governance standards could not countenance the now enabled

Lord Simpson of Dunkeld having the same proprietorial powers as did his predecessor. The new chairman will have to provide a strong counterpoint to Lord Simpson's ambitions.

As chief executive and then chairman at Smiths, Sir Roger streamlined the business, creating a group with three clear cut

This is in stark contrast to GEC's plethora of companies and joint ventures that appear to have been structured by expert contortionists. Lord Simpson has already decreed his preference for extricating himself from these sometimes uncomfortable positions. Sir Roger has the experience and standing to help in negotiations which will, inevitably, be tricky.

Floating GEC Alsthom next year would be a major step in sorting out GEC. A price tag of up to £4 billion would add to GEC's already loaded coffers and could encourage Lord Simp-

son to go on a spending spree. At that stage, Sir Roger's experience of value-for-money acquisitions would be a huge asset. But it is debatable whether this industrial paragon would have saved Lord Simpson from his recent bruising row with investors over boardroom pay: Sir Roger's package last year was worth more than £1.6 million.

Flying the flag for Britain

It is good to know that when Anita Roddick is next in the Borneo jungles discussing the relative merits of native unguents, she will also take the time to bang the drum for Britain plc.

Ms Roddick is just one of the famous names now set forth to sell for Britain by Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook.

The idea of bringing business expertise to bear on the Foreign Office is admirable. Already, under the last government, the idea of export promoters, seconded from industry, had begun to generate business. These were people who had gained inside knowledge of particular markets from actually selling to them. As export promoters, their expertise

was to be made available to other companies who wanted to tackle new markets.

Today's initiative is far glossier than the sensible idea of seconding managers into the Department of Trade and Industry, but will it be any more effective? Sir Colin Marshall already takes it upon himself to be an ambassador for Britain, albeit without benefit of royal insignia. The array of organisations he represents, in between carrying out his tasks as chairman of British Airways, would hardly seem to leave room for any further efforts, let alone speaking engagements.

Strong words from famous names are unlikely to win contracts for smaller companies. Help with more mundane matters such as funding for overseas exhibitions would be less glamorous but probably more effective.

Clearly unclear

THIS afternoon the Chancellor of the Exchequer will tell us all what we have to think about over the next few months. That, at least, is the theory of a not-to-be-called-green Budget. But given what has so far been leaked about his intentions, from penalising private mileage to instituting a 10p starting rate for income tax, it is not quite clear how much consulting he intends to do before delivering the real Budget next spring.

Allied Colloids rejects £1.1bn bid by US group

BY PAUL DURMAN

ALLIED COLLOIDS, the chemicals company, is fighting to stay independent after rejecting a £1.1 billion cash offer from Hercules, a larger American chemicals group.

The initial response from the City suggested that the offer of 180p a share is not enough for Hercules to be sure of victory. Shares in Allied Colloids jumped 41½p, to 167½p, with some analysts saying that a bidder will have to offer close to 180p to win control.

David Farrar, chief executive of Colloids, said: "This is an unwelcome bid. We are not up for sale. We have got a bright, independent future. We are in high-growth markets and we have got exciting prospects."

Colloids, whose chemicals are used in pollution control and papermaking, pointed to its record of sales growth averaging 11 per cent a year. However, Mr Farrar agreed that its profits record was less impressive.

Hercules, which makes



Keith Elliott, chairman of Hercules, in London yesterday

chemicals used in paper, food and paint, said that shares in Colloids had underperformed the UK market by 30 per cent or more over one, two and three years. Keith Elliott,

chairman, criticised Colloids' investment record, saying: "Return on capital has been consistently heading downhill."

Hercules said its offer was

53 per cent above the October low for Colloids shares, of 101½p, and 35 per cent above the price before bid speculation began last Tuesday.

Colloids recently received a tentative approach from another potential purchaser, but said on Friday that talks had ended. Suggestions of other possible bidders include Dow Chemical, Ciba Speciality, BASF and Elf Atochem.

Mr Elliott had lunch with Mr Farrar a few months ago, but Hercules first contacted Colloids about a deal on Saturday. At a meeting on Sunday at the offices of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, its adviser, Hercules asked Colloids to name a price its board would be willing to recommend.

Mr Elliott said that the two groups would form a very attractive portfolio of complementary chemical businesses, with enhanced prospects for all employees. Any cost cutting would be decided by a team from both companies.

Tempus page 30

Paragon sales jump 118%

BY CHRIS AYRES

PARAGON, the reformed finance group, yesterday denied that it was growing too fast after it revealed that total funds lent had reached more than £1 billion in 1997 and mortgage sales had jumped 118 per cent.

The company, which changed its name from National Home Loans, recently diversified into consumer finance and vehicle contract hire. Yesterday it reported a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, from £18.1 million to £21.6 million.

Earnings per share grew 19 per cent, from 20.6p to 24.6p, and a final dividend of 15p will be paid on February 2, bringing the total dividend to 2.7p, up from 2.4p in 1996.

BAe deal risks Airbus conflict

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BRITISH AEROSPACE is risking a dispute with its partners in the Airbus consortium by concluding a ten-year supply deal with Boeing, the main competitor to Airbus.

BAe will supply wing parts to Boeing's 737 jets, bailing out Boeing at a time of corporate turmoil. Last month Boeing announced it was taking a £1.6 billion charge to deal with production problems.

Assembly lines for the 737 were closed down for several weeks after Boeing's regular suppliers could not cope with extra demand. Airbus is competing with Boeing on almost every airline order.

BAe has tried very hard this year to dispel the impression that it is not fully committed to the consortium, but reports of a transatlantic tie-up have repeatedly swept the markets. An insider at Aerospatiale, the

French Airbus partner, said: "BAe is disappointed with us that privatisation [of Aerospatiale] and the creation of a single corporate entity is going so slowly. We try not to revive the old stereotypes about British commitment to Europe and British self-interest."

BAe said: "There was a competitive bidding process for this contract and we won. In the aerospace industry it is not unusual that people work for one another."

The City is not convinced that the deal will not upset Airbus partners. Chris Avery, aerospace analyst at Paribas, said: "They may not be happy to find that British Aerospace has made a free-market decision to take part in Boeing production, and it wouldn't do much for the European perception of British commitment to Airbus."

Delphi tries to placate its investors

BY PAUL DURMAN

DELPHI, the IT staff provider, has attempted to address one of the investor concerns about its forthcoming Nasdaq listing by reserving up to two million shares for placing with its existing UK institutions.

Some institutions were unhappy about the Nasdaq placing, which is expected to raise about £35 million next month, because it will deny them so-called pre-emption rights and therefore dilute their ownership of the company.

Delphi's third-quarter results show pre-tax profits rising 31 per cent to £3.8 million. A higher tax charge and an increase in the number of shares in issue restricted earnings growth to 13 per cent. The nine-month figures show pre-tax profits 25 per cent up at £10.8 million.

Tempus, page 30

Abbott Mead Vickers buys O'Connell group

BY CHRIS AYRES

THREE senior employees of The O'Connell Partnership, the marketing group, could share £300,000 in incentive payments after the purchase of the company by Abbott Mead Vickers, its larger rival, for up to £2.5 million.

It is not known which O'Connell employees will receive the incentives, although Bernard O'Connell, the company's founder, will not benefit because he is a big shareholder and will have already

Profits warning puts Bluebird to flight

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Bluebird Toys lost 19 per cent of their value yesterday after the company said that problems in developing its North American market would force its profits below £7.33 million expected in the City.

The warning comes six months after the company said other problems in the US and Canada would see a decline in half-year profits for the second consecutive year.

The shares, which were recovering from an 80p low, yesterday fell 18½p to 51½p.

Lafarge bid deadline extended

BY ADAM JONES

THE game of cat-and-mouse between Lafarge and Redland continued yesterday as the French group extended the deadline for acceptances of its 320p-a-share bid for the UK building materials company.

Redland shareholders now have until 3pm on December 5 to accept Lafarge's hostile bid. Lafarge revealed that it had received acceptances representing only 0.83 per cent of issued share capital by November 21. However, it is yet to approach institutions waiting for Redland to start wooing shareholders with its own value-enhancing countermeasures.

As a central plank of its defence, Redland is expected to announce the sale of its interest in RBB, the world's biggest roof tile business, to the Braes family, one of RBB's main shareholders, for about £800 million. It is also understood to be in discussions with other parties regarding the disposal of further assets.

Lafarge is expected to announce on December 3 whether it will raise its offer. Redland shares closed down 1p at 336½p yesterday. The bid battle must be over by December 17.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

London losses contained in the wake of Yamaichi

CITY investors kept their cool in response to the collapse of Yamaichi, Japan's fourth-largest broking house, under debts of £15 billion.

Prices fell back across a broad front, but the meltdown that had been predicted in some quarters failed to materialise. Prices closed above their worst levels. The FTSE 100 index, down 102.2 at one stage, ended 37.2 lower at 4,986.6. Selling pressure was light, with just 658 million shares changing hands.

Traders said it could have been worse, but the opening losses on Wall Street were not as bad as had been feared and London kept its nerve. One trader summed it up: "We're not out of the woods yet, but it could prove sticky for Japan overnight and that could lead to a further sell-off today."

Merrill Lynch is taking an increasingly bearish view of the possible outcome. It has been telling clients that the problems of the Far East economies will have a significant negative impact on the profits of those British companies exposed to the region.

Reassuring noises from the Japanese central bank helped to calm the situation. In the meantime, investors must later today contend with the "Green Budget" proposals that will throw some light on Government spending for next year.

The shock waves from Yamaichi were clearly felt in the financial sector, where HSBC dropped 82p to £14.85, Barclays 24p to £14.35, Lloyds TSB 14p to 68p and Standard Chartered 46p to 68p. Some brokers back from Standard's operations in the Far East have expressed concern about the profile of its loan book, bearing in mind the recent problems of the "tiger" economies.

The collapse of Yamaichi sent a few ripples through the likes of Fleming Japan Investment Trust, down 6p at 136.1p.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has also been expressing caution about the state of the domestic mortgage market, highlighting the falling loan volume, tighter margins and a slowdown in house price rises. Abbey National fell 21p to 949p, Alliance & Leicester 10p to 707.1p and Woolwich 11p to 290p.

Speculative buying drove Chemring Group 25p higher to 164p. Weekend reports



A broker's comment cost Marks & Spencer shares 18.1p

suggest a bid from either rivals Cobham, 5p dearer than 723.1p, or Meggitt, 1p lighter at 146p.

Those speculators that were prepared to pay a hefty premium for Allied Colloids on Friday, after it was announced that bid talks had been called off, were handsomely rewarded when Hercules, the US group, launched its £1 billion offer yesterday. The shares

raced up 41.1p to 167.1p, topping the 155p being offered by Hercules as the Allied Colloids board rejected the offer. Almost 15 million Allied Colloids had changed hands by the close of business.

Suggestions that the Halifax may make an offer for M&G Group lifted the latter 12.1p to 14.00. Halifax, down 35p 67.5p, is reckoned to have had talks already with the

M&G management, but its approaches were rebuffed.

There was some positive news at last for shareholders of Safeway, up 61.1p at 325.1p, which fell sharply after last week after issuing its second profit warning of the year. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has moved from "neutral" to "overweight" despite the rash of profit downgradings that accompanied the figures.

Great Universal Stores was steady at 706p, after touching 700p. Merrill Lynch has issued a "buy" recommendation.

But Marks & Spencer suffered with a fall of 18.1p to 634.1p after some cautious comments from Credit Lyonnais Laing. The price now stands 34p below its peak for the year.

Babcock International dropped 7p to 75p after BZW moved from a "buy" to a "sell".

Hanson is just a shadow of its former self after its four-way split, but according to ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, the shares are probably worth more than the market gives them credit. Hoare says the break-up value of the business is probably worth 350p a share. They closed 61.1p dearer at 290.1p.

A profits warning just a few weeks before Christmas left Bluebird Toys nursing a loss of 18.1p at 81.1p. The group says that results for the current year are likely to be below market forecasts. Mattel, the US toy maker, will not now distribute its Polly Pocket dolls in the US in 1998.

GILT-EDGED: There was little scope for manoeuvre as far as investors were concerned, with many of them adopting a low-key approach ahead of today's "Green Budget". Already shaken by the Yamaichi collapse, many of them took the view it was better to do nothing rather than pay the price later.

The bond market still managed to achieve useful gains in thin trading.

In the future pit, the December series of the long gilt finished 1.1p better at £118.7p in modest trading.

NEW YORK: Shares were weaker in early trading, with investors unnerved by the demise of Yamaichi Securities in Japan. Traders said some downside correction was also probably due after the strong gains of last week. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 66.90 lower at 7,314.17.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)

Dow Jones 7814.17 (+6.40)

S&P Composite 955.49 (+7.60)

Tokyo Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong Hang Seng 10586.36 (+38.16)

Amsterdam AEX Index 875.46 (-23.15)

Sydney ASX 2482.1 (-0.4)

Frankfurt DAX 3803.63 (-129.04)

Singapore Straits 1681.85 (-79.45)

Brussels General 1351.69 (-263.13)

Paris CAC 40 2802.48 (-59.22)

Zurich SMI Gen 1165.40 (-12.89)

London FT 30 3172.5 (-47.41)

FTSE 100 4098.64 (-47.29)

FTSE 250 4455.7 (-20.38)

FTSE 350 2363.7 (-35.48)

FTSE Eurotrack 100 2559.07 (-19.16)

FTSE All-Share 2310.99 (-33.62)

FTSE Non Financials 2399.95 (-25.48)

FTSE Small Companies 102.09 (-0.17)

FTSE Corp. Secs 102.09 (-0.17)

Bargains 659.36

US 1,928 (+0.028)

German Mark 2,936.1 (-0.163)

Eurodollar Index 104.42 (-0.23)

Bank of England official close 4,900

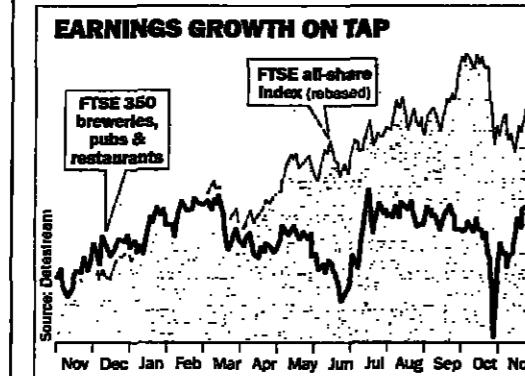
EUCU 1,876

ESDR 1,232

RPI 1,595.95 Oct (3.78) Jan 1987-100

RPX 157.95 Oct (2.88) Jan 1987-100

Source: Datamann



PANMURE GORDON, the stockbroker, has reached the conclusion that most of us reached some time ago: that pub owners are effectively licensed to print money. That is, in fact, the title of the broker's latest review of the licensed retail trade.

James Wheatcroft says: "The underlying premise of this note is that many of them will be winners."

He says it is explained by the rapid development in the leisure market as a whole, with the UK starting to behave in an increasing

ly cosmopolitan manner. The pub has moved from being the central focus of local communities to being another competitor for the leisure pound in this more competitive climate.

Top of Mr Wheatcroft's shopping list is SFI Group, 2p easier at 105p. Its Litter Tree "all day" pub concept is successful, with unit turnover among some of the best in the industry. Others to make the "buy" list include Eldridge Peacock, unchanged at 260.1p; European Leisure, steady at 123.1p; and Grosvenor Inns, marking time at 192.1p.

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RECENT ISSUES

Advance UK Tst 100

BCH Group 199

BG 'B' 30

Buckland Inv Wts 10

Buckland Investments 18

CRC 109% + 1

Capitol Opps Tst 113%

Cresco Intl 153%

Fling Geared Units 72%

Foreight Tech Wts 30

Foresight Tech 100

Gyrus Group 147%

Holmes Place 185

Latchways (155) 169% + 1%

Maclor 103%

MetalsRussia 86%

Minoplanet Sys 54 + 1

NSB Retail Sys 185 + 2%

Newquest (250) 238%

Northern Recruit 116%

Nottingham Pest 50 56

SHL Group 259

Savvy Asset Mgmt 113% - 1

Workplace Tech 200 - 4%

Source: Datamann

RIGHTS ISSUES

Meyer Int'l n/p (360) 13% - 3%

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Chemring 164p (+25.1p)

Prien Rail 365p (+14.1p)

PostExpress 921p (+14.1p)

Logica 97.1p (+14p)

RMC Grp 920p (+10p)

Cable Wireless 527p (+13p)

Wintrust 357p (+10p)

Closing Prices Page 32

NIGHTS ISSUES

Meyer Int'l n/p (360) 13% - 3%

'Sun sets on Yamaichi as other brokers look on from shadows'

Few rivals can expect to benefit from the collapse.
Richard Miles reports

Few financial institutions can claim the distinction of celebrating their 100th anniversary by filing for bankruptcy. But this unfortunate accolade goes to Yamaichi, until yesterday Japan's fourth-largest securities broker.

News of Yamaichi's collapse under £15 billion of debt has surprised no one in Tokyo financial circles. It has been whispered for years that the broker harboured serious problems. As one investment banker said, the only surprise is that it has taken so long for Yamaichi to go under.

But coming on top of the failure earlier this month of Sanyo Securities, ranked seventh in the pecking order of brokerage firms, the world's financial community is now wondering whether Yamaichi's failure signals the beginning of the end for Japan's securities industry.

Certainly, for the smaller brokers such as Taiheiyo — 40 per cent owned by Yamaichi — the future looks bleak. The real concern is that the economic slump in Japan and a string of financial scandals may also bring the other so-called Big Four houses — Nomura, Daiwa and Nikko — to their knees.

To compound their difficulties, the Japanese Government is seemingly committed to a programme of financial deregulation. Some believe that by exposing the brokerage firms to increased foreign competition, while they are still mired in scandal and bad debt, the Ministry of Finance has effectively signed their death warrant.

With hindsight, Yamaichi's death has been a slow and painful one. The firm was once the country's biggest broker, but a series of poor lending decisions and dubious market practices brought it to the brink of bankruptcy in 1985 when a stock market crisis drove investors to demand their money back.

Only a Y28.2 billion (£130 million) loan from the Government saved Yamaichi. There-



News of Yamaichi's collapse under £15 billion of debt surprised no one in Tokyo financial circles after years of whispers

after, the broker lurched from scandal to scandal.

Six years ago came the first reports of improper compensation to favoured clients, an off-balance sheet system known as *tobashi* deals, where bad loans are passed from one client account to another on the understanding that the firm will support the losses. Yesterday, Yamaichi admitted to *tobashi* liabilities totalling more than \$2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Yamaichi then became heavily implicated in a corporate racketeering scandal, known as *sokaiya*, in which all of the Big Four have become embroiled. Under *sokaiya*, Japanese gangsters agree not to disrupt the public meetings of the brokers in return for

hush-money. Although the amount of money involved is small, foreign observers have leapt on the scandal as proof that Tokyo's investment firms are corrupt to the core.

In August, in a belated attempt to shake off the scandal, Yamaichi sacked 11 top executives, including the president and the chairman. But still the rumours of its rottenness persisted.

"Not many people are surprised by this. There has been a level of corruption in the Japanese banking system for a number of years. You name it, they have done it. Now their incestuous relationships have come home to roost," says one senior securities executive.

Yesterday morning, Yama-

ichi had finally to make a clean breast of it. "This unexpected situation in our 100th anniversary is heartbreaking," said a tearful president, Shouhei Norawa. "We don't know how to beg the pardon of our customers, shareholders and many related people who care for us," he said.

But how far has the rot spread to other brokerage firms? The professional Casandras are already predicting a "domino effect", as the collapse of one firm sends another toppling. "If clients start moving their money, then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Most of the Japanese securities firms will go, certainly the second-tier brokers," forecasts one pessimist in the industry.

Arguably, the remaining Big Four could benefit from Yamaichi's ill-fortune. Nomura — head and shoulders above Daiwa and Nikko — is the obvious home for clients to take their money and their custom. Between them, these three firms could absorb Yamaichi's business — so long as investors believe that they can safely entrust their money to them. And that's a big if.

Ethics to one side, even the financial fundamentals look bad. Save for Nomura, Japanese brokerage firms are not in the best of financial health. Nikko reported first-half profits of just Y283 million, a 98.7 per cent fall year-on-year. Daiwa performed a little better, reporting a 27 per cent drop in profits to Y15.53 billion.

Not halted overseas investment entirely. Two years ago, Nomura snapped up Angel Trains for an undisclosed sum and is now floating it on the market for up to £300 million. The same company overtook Bass and Allied Domecq to become Britain's largest pub owner in September, paying GrandMet £1.2 billion for 5,400 pubs.

After their own markets collapsed, the Japanese banks have been slowly slipping down mergers and acquisitions league tables as they concentrate on their own worries. With Japan in the doldrums — its property prices are a fifth of what they were seven years ago — it is the turn of UK retailers like Marks & Spencer to eye the Japanese market with envious eyes.

Japan's financial woes have

been compounded by the recent collapse of the Japanese economy, which has led to a sharp decline in exports and a rise in unemployment.

Nomura was the only firm to buck the trend, turning a massive loss into a profit of Y49.7 billion. It also has size on its side. As one insider points out, a single UK deal last year — the purchase of 57,000 houses from the Ministry of Defence for £1.6 billion — was bigger in value than the market capitalisation of Nikko's entire European operation.

Craig Chudler, a Tokyo-based director of Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, is convinced that Nomura and its bigger rivals can weather the economic storm and survive deregulation, including the impact of next year's abolition of fixed commissions. When the US Government made similar changes 20 years ago, commission levels fell by between 70 and 80 per cent.

"There have been a lot of sceptics about deregulation. Some people describe Big Bang as more of a 'Little Bang'; they don't believe it will happen." In reality, says Mr Chudler, deregulation has already begun. Brokers do discount commissions, although it tends to be institutional clients who benefit. "Those who need it most — private clients — aren't getting the discounts."

Foreign firms, such as Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley, both of America, have already made considerable inroads into the Japanese market, mainly through the liberalisation of asset management, but also in securities trading. Mr Chudler points out that American and European houses now control more than 50 per cent of the Japanese equities traded in Tokyo.

The real stumbling block is the retail market, the bedrock of securities firms like Nomura. "Everyone quotes this mouth-watering figure of Y1.200 trillion in personal savings. US banks think: if I could just get 1 per cent of that market, it's big business," says Mr Chudler.

Arguably, while the Japanese public save far more of their earnings than their American or European counterparts, they are notoriously conservative in where they invest their money.

It is far from clear whether the collapse of Yamaichi and the string of scandals in the industry are sufficient for smaller savers to shift their allegiance.

Mr Chudler believes the only realistic route to this market for foreign banks is through partnership with existing Japanese banks and brokers, such as the recent deal struck by Invesco to market its mutual funds through the branch network of the Long-Term Credit Bank. One advantage of the current turmoil in Japan is that foreign banks can exploit the weakness of native investment firms to attain far more favourable terms.

Ironically, in the months leading up to its demise, Yamaichi had been touting the idea of such a partnership around the US investment banks, including Merrill Lynch, according to Mr Chudler. But quite wisely, no one was willing to take on Yamaichi: the firm's "baggage" had become so well-known.

Forget research, let's just have a great idea

Is marketing becoming a slave to the scientific methods of today's business environment? Has the industry surrendered the unpredictable qualities of flair and creativity for the certainties of science and modern technology?

For today's marketing director, who must constantly produce measurable returns on their marketing investment, the answer can only be yes. Yet, a survey out this week by Taylor Nelson AGB found that 59 per cent of 105 marketers interviewed believed that it is more of an art than a science.

But marketers take heart. A campaign to liberate marketing directors from the shackles of scientific research is gaining support in the boardrooms of some of the UK's biggest companies.

Only last week the chief executives of a number of firms called for a return to marketing as an art form.

George Bull, chairman of Grand Metropolitan and a one-time marketing director himself, issued a stark warning at a Marketing Society conference on the subject.

Bull argues that the advanced technology which lies at the fingertips of today's marketers is in danger of becoming a handicap rather than an asset to the success of marketing.

"Nowadays some marketing managers shelter behind their pile of numbers, use research as a crutch, avoid judgements entirely and forget the goal of all marketing is distinctiveness in the marketplace," he said. "But the same information processed on the same software produces only 'me-too' ideas."

His view is supported by John Dale, European vice-president of Pedigree Petfoods, part of the Mars Group, that great supporter of marketing.

While applauding the growth in sophisticated models that can measure everything from price elasticities to the strength of a brand in its product category, he cautions companies not to rely on these alone.

"In many instances they (the models) have successfully enabled us, if not, to take the risk out of the marketing decision then at least to minimise it. But they are not a substitute for what I would call real marketing."

"They are all limited usually to the evaluation of quite narrow parameters within the marketing mix. But they will not go out of the square." In short they won't do the job for you.

Even Colin Smith, Safeway's chief executive and a former finance director, chimed in to defend the art of advertising, claiming that his company's Harry and Molly ads are twice as effective as his competitors' and are worth the annual £28 million investment.

So what is an entire generation of marketing directors schooled in the science of measurement and effectiveness to make of such seductive talk? Over the past decade marketers have made the scientific gathering of detailed data on their customers a priority. They are likely to be armed to the teeth with the very latest in research and customer information.

That alone is no longer enough to guarantee success. As Theodore Levitt, the American marketing guru, once put it: "An organisation never really researches the consumer's wants. It only researches the kinds of things which they have already decided to offer."

Peter Dart, an ex-Unilever marketing director of 14 years and now chairman of Added Value Company, a marketing agency, said: "I think Western companies have lost the art of creativity. Growth is coming from areas such as cost-cutting, re-engineering, management and fine-tuning the supply chain, but it's not coming from great ideas. There doesn't seem to be the time for marketers these days to actually do any marketing."

Where would 3M be without the inspiration of Art Fry, who dreamed up the idea of the Post-it Note after pages of his bible kept falling out and he happened upon a consignment of sub-standard glue.

"It's the sort of thing that you wouldn't have researched. They weren't responding to massive customer demand. It was just creating something out of nothing," said Dart.

Bull cites Bailey's Irish Cream, one of Ireland's biggest exports, as an example of how a successful marketing idea was born from a lunch. No research. No modules. No competitive analysis.

"In marketing inspiration is a matter of being the first in with a great idea that looks obvious once someone else has pointed it out," said Bull.

JULIAN LEE

When financial woes ebb and flow

Fraser Nelson examines the relationship between investment and the economies of Japan and Britain

suaded many of his fellow manufacturers to join him. Five years later, Nissan opened its first car plant in the North East, kick-starting a relationship which in the early 1990s saw £20 billion of investment come to our shores each year.

The electronics boys were next to land. The friendly, and cheap, labour force saw Scottish highly favoured by NEC which in 1981 set up a semiconductor plant in the new town of Livingston.

They liked it so much, they bought the companies. In 1984

Fujitsu bought ICL, the last British computer manufacturer. Soon afterwards Dai-Ichi Kogyo had become the world's largest bank. By the late 1980s, the Tokyo market had outstripped Wall Street in value.

But their main penchant was for star properties: Japanese developers snapped up Bracken House, the former head office of the Financial Times, having bid £144 million — some £80 million more than the next best offer. Mitsubishi bought Paternoster Square next to St Paul's Cathedral and after years of

stagnation put in plans for its redevelopment last year.

Investments were not restricted to property. In 1987, an unnamed Japanese insurer staggered staff at Christie's by paying £26.1 million for Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* — a painting now thought to be a fake. And Jusco, the Japanese department store group, must wonder how Sir Bernard Ashley persuaded it to buy 15 per cent of Laura Ashley. The stake is worth less than a quarter of the original cost.

Japan's financial woes have

not halted overseas investment entirely. Two years ago, Nomura snapped up Angel Trains for an undisclosed sum and is now floating it on the market for up to £300 million. The same company overtook Bass and Allied Domecq to become Britain's largest pub owner in September, paying GrandMet £1.2 billion for 5,400 pubs.

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decisions you make today can have a long-term effect on your business." With that sort of advice I am sure I am willing to double the fee payable for those two hours.

Singapore sling

TIMING is everything, as they say in Tokyo (no coincidence that Yamaichi collapsed ahead of a public holiday when the markets are closed). And also, it seems in Aberdeen.

I note that those fine chaps, Aberdeen Fund Managers, chose yesterday to announce that they are listing its shares in Singapore. Martin Gilbert, Aberdeen's chief executive, tells me proudly that the group will be the first asset management company listed in Singapore and the first sterling denominated company. Gilbert's colleague, Hugh Young, adds: "Our listing is clear evidence of our belief in the long-term prospects for Asia in spite of the current turmoil."

Tell that to Nick Leeson.

has just retired as the Government's chief economic adviser, feeling the new Labour wind of change. "Last Friday was the first time since 1955 that I realised I did not have to work," he told the party, which included Gavyn Davies and Tim Congdon, from either ends of the economic spectrum. "I did work but I didn't need to."

Mervyn King, the new Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, led the tributes. "Without Alan the Treasury wouldn't have been such a success. Alan tells the truth which others prefer not to."

Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan, alas, were not in attendance.

JASON NISSE



Sir Alan chose to work

What's in t'name

WHY do all these American chemicals companies feel that they have to have such "I stride the world with a mighty bound" sort of names? First it was Millennium, the group spun out of Hanson, and now there is Hercules, which most Yanks will know as a Disney film rather than the hero of Greek mythology.

The latest trial of Hercules, of course, is trying to persuade those obdurate Yorkshiremen at Allied Colloids to accept its £1 billion bid. The management of Colloids, of course, is far too down to earth to

start giving the company a fancy name, sticking with its old title which sounds like a painful disease.

A City adviser tells me of visiting the group in Bradford not so long ago. "We don't get much of a profile in t'City," he was told. "How can we improve it?"

"Change your name," he answered and was promptly shown the door.

In A similar vein, the word in West Yorkshire wine bars (yes, they do have them) is that if you combine Colloids with Hercules you end up with something close to Haemorrhoids.

Mutual fiend

STILL within the Bradford metropolitan area, an attempt by the increasingly energetic chief executive, Christopher Rodriguez, to rally staff and increase morale at the Bradford & Bingley Building Society backfired yesterday. Rumours of a mass meeting organised in London, at which Rodriguez was giving a presidential-style address, reached a City hungry for news about the next demutualisation. Within hours, the Square Mile was ripe with speculation that an announcement was imminent.

Well I never

NOW it is not in the nature of this column to criticise management consultants: their work has always been recognised. So it is with some excitement that I note the offer from Menswear and Womenswear Executives, a consultancy specialising in fashion management, of two free hours of advice. Brian Ross, the group's managing director, tells me that: "The

They were in Highgate, at the 60th birthday party of Sir Alan Budd, who

for vacating Saint-Paul.

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Losses in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High Low Company	Price \$1	% +/-	Yd PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES			
565 407 Allied Breweries	324 - 16	46.17	121
625 408 Amstel Lager	299 - 16	46.17	121
720 409 Bass	315 - 16	46.17	121
721 410 Bass Special	46.17	51.62	49.0
1040 411 Brewster A	952 - 12	46.17	121
1041 412 Brewster B	124 - 12	46.17	121
1042 413 Brewster C	124 - 12	46.17	121
1043 414 Brewster D	124 - 12	46.17	121
1044 415 Brewster E	124 - 12	46.17	121
1045 416 Brewster F	124 - 12	46.17	121
2004 418 Ss Breweries	1482 - 25	46.17	121
BANKS			
1873 918 ABN-AMRO	176 - 8	25.17	174
1050 710 Abbey Mill	71 - 35	25.17	174
770 527 Airtel	100 - 10	25.17	174
783 528 Airtel Tech	107 - 10	25.17	174
516 303 Am New Z	413 - 10	43	174
2021 404 Am Ameri	230 - 10	43	174
1000 917 Amersham	1433 - 24	24.16	173
211 405 Am Ameri	107 - 22	13.88	173
1000 918 Amersham	1433 - 24	24.16	173
1012 601 Am West	365 - 7	42.14	171
931 402 Am West	475 - 7	42.14	171
1024 502 Am West	275 - 7	28.19	171
1100 114 Am West Lang	170 - 7	34.12	172
372 261 Am West Wh	70 - 7	34.12	172
BREWERY, PUBS & RESTAURANTS			
910 651 Bar	62 - 2	21.12	171
1045 315 Bar for the Pub	105 - 2	21.12	171
1046 316 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1047 317 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1048 318 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1049 319 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1050 320 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1051 321 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1052 322 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1053 323 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1054 324 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1055 325 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1056 326 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1057 327 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1058 328 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1059 329 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1060 330 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1061 331 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1062 332 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1063 333 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1064 334 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1065 335 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1066 336 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1067 337 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1068 338 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1069 339 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1070 340 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1071 341 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1072 342 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
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1074 344 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1075 345 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1076 346 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1077 347 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1078 348 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1079 349 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1080 350 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1081 351 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1082 352 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1083 353 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1084 354 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1085 355 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
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1091 361 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1092 362 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1093 363 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
1094 364 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
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1096 366 Barred Owl	125 - 2	55.13	171
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South Korean market slumps to ten-year low

By GEORGE SIVELL

SOUTH KOREA'S stock market plunged to a ten-year low as the country's bond markets tumbled, the currency fell and interest rates rose in response to the bailout package by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The sharp falls raised fears in Britain that South Korean corporations' expansion plans would be curtailed. Six South Korean projects have created or safeguarded 9,138 jobs, including LG's massive South Wales project and expansion by Samsung.

The market mayhem formed an unpronouncing backdrop to the first day of talks between South Korean

Government officials and delegates from the IMF over the terms of a \$20 billion (£12 billion) rescue package. Markets were nervous in spite of a pledge by Korea's central bank to put \$6.6 billion into the money markets.

Three-year corporate bonds fell to a five-year low, yielding 16.05 per cent, against 14.5 per cent on Friday, and overnight interest rates soared to a one-year high of 15.50 per cent, against Friday's 14.87 per cent. The debt market barely operated, however, because there were no buyers.

The Korean stock exchange's composite stock index fell a record 7.17 per cent, or 34.79 points, to 450.64, the lowest seen since July 9, 1987.

when it stood at 441.02. The South Korean won, the rapid decline of which in recent weeks was one of the main reasons that Seoul called in the IMF, closed at 1085.0 to the dollar, a weakening from Friday's 1056.0. The won fell 6 per cent last week. It is now 20 per cent lower than at the start of the year.

One analyst said: "People think the IMF package will lead to rises in interest rates, cuts in fiscal spending, more corporate collapses and lower economic growth."

Analysts said the IMF was most likely to ask for tighter monetary controls and cuts in fiscal spending to tame inflation, but at the expense of

interest rates that would hit construction firms reliant on borrowings.

A government agency set up to buy the mounting bad loans of financial institutions opened for business yesterday, but it, too, failed to restore confidence.

South Korea's financial crisis has been caused by a string of corporate failures that have put enormous strain on the banking system. Foreign lenders have been refusing to roll over short-term loans amid growing concern about the creditworthiness of Korean banks. More than two thirds of the country's \$10 billion external debt as of March was due in a year or less. One of the first

IMF moves was to ask for details of the bad debt problems at Korean banks, estimated to total \$26 billion.

South Korea's Finance Ministry had earlier ordered 12 merchant banks to liquidate their foreign-exchange assets or face business suspension. Many of the country's 30 merchant banks, unable to borrow dollars from domestic and foreign lenders, went into the foreign exchange market in recent weeks, fueling a currency crisis.

President Kim Young Sam has told the public to expect a painful period of lower growth, massive restructuring and higher unemployment before the economy emerges stronger.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BBA takes stake in Hoechst division

BBA, the engineering group, has bought a 15 per cent stake in AQF Technologies for \$7 million (£4 million) in a deal that may result in it acquiring the whole of AQF for up to \$100 million. BBA said that of the \$7 million, \$2 million is payable immediately and the balance over the next two years. AQF was recently formed from Hoechst AG's air quality filtration division and Hoechst will initially retain an 85 per cent stake. BBA may acquire the remaining 85 per cent by the end of the first quarter of 2004 for an estimated \$74.5 million.

If current forecasts are exceeded, the total consideration payable by BBA will not exceed \$100 million and will be satisfied in cash out of BBA's existing resources. BBA will contribute to the management of the company and will have two out of five seats on the board, increasing once BBA has a majority shareholding in the year 2000. AQF is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, and had net assets at October 31 of \$1.9 million. BBA shares fell 6.2p to 364p.

Goodhead disposal

GOODHEAD GROUP has sold Southwestern Ontario Publishing & Printing (SWOPP) to Annex Publishing & Printing Inc for £2.3 million. The principal activities of Southwestern Ontario are publishing and printing local newspapers in southwestern Ontario, Canada. In the year to December 31, 1996, SWOPP achieved turnover of C\$12.49 million (£5.2 million) and earned a pre-tax profit of C\$378,000. Net assets at that date were C\$3.818 million.

Pillar in joint venture

PILLAR PROPERTY, the property investment and development group, said it had formed a joint venture with Haslemere Estates, which acts by power of attorney for Kodamco UK. The 50:50 joint venture will develop a 40-acre site at Capability Green Business Park, Luton, Bedfordshire, which will comprise 630,000 sq ft of office and related buildings. It is planned to build the park over the next five to six years on a pre-let and pre-sold basis.

Courtaulds Textiles pact

COURTAULDS TEXTILES has agreed a 50/50 joint venture with Collins & Aikman, a leading American manufacturer of car interiors. The new company will be called Collins & Aikman Automotive Fabrics. Courtaulds said that it would transfer into the venture all of the automotive fabric design, technological and manufacturing resources that currently trade as CTAP in Manchester and Carlisle. This business had net assets of £5.4 million at December 31, 1996.

Senior to buy Metal Fab

SENIOR ENGINEERING has agreed to acquire Metal Fab Machine, based in Florida, for about \$19 million (£11 million) from Flowserv Corporation. Senior said the exact consideration will depend upon the net asset value at closing, which, it is anticipated, will be approximately \$7 million. The acquisition will be financed from the group's existing borrowing facilities and is conditional on certain regulatory approvals. Completion is expected to be within two months.

Silvermines agreement

SILVERMINES, the electronics and electrical group, has agreed terms in its bid for Active Imaging, the digital imaging group, which offers 17 Silvermines shares for every 92 Active Imaging shares. Clem Jansen, group managing director of Silvermines, said: "We have been actively pursuing the acquisition of digital technology over the last 18 months for application in our CCTV and building automation division to provide us with a technological lead in these sectors."

Cammell Laird purchase

CAMMELL LAIRD is to purchase DG Electrical for £1 million, to be satisfied with £500,000 in cash and by the issue of 329,164 ordinary shares. In the year to February 28, DG Electrical made an audited pre-tax profit of £398,000 on turnover of £2.9 million. Unaudited results for the seven months to September 30 show a pre-tax profit £547,000 on sales of £2.9 million. Net assets on acquisition are warranted at £289,000 after a pre-sale dividend to the vendor.

GB delivers £2m maiden profit at half time

By FRASER NELSON

GB RAILWAYS, which runs the InterCity services from London to Liverpool and Norwich, made a £2.1 million profit at half-time in spite of seeing its punctuality record deteriorate 43 per cent.

The company, which runs seven services under the Anglia franchise, turned in its maiden profit after a £18 million subsidy, topped up with a £15,000 bonus payment from the franchising director. Its overall service,

Sterling cuts into Ransomes

By ADAM JONES

PROFITS at Ransomes, the lawnmower maker being bought by Textron of the US, were cut down by the strength of the pound and weak Franco-German markets.

Ransomes is the last internationally dominant lawnmower company in UK ownership, supplying many of the world's most prestigious golf courses. In the year to September 30, profits were £10.5 million, down from £12.8 million in 1996. Operating profits fell £3.2 million to £6.9 million. Ransomes said that the strong pound was responsible for £1.2 million of this fall.

Demand for its Ipswich-made commercial mowers was hit, as expected, by the purchasing reluctance of European local authorities, particularly in France and Germany, although sales and orders improved in the second half of the year. John Clement, chairman, said continuing product development in this division was another cause for optimism.

The consumer division saw sales fall £8.9 million to £32.2 million, prompting an operating loss of £300,000, compared with a £100,000 profit last year.



Tom How, chief executive of Majestic, reported a doubling of pre-tax profits to £1 million for the six months to September 29. Earnings at the wine warehouse chain grew from 2.83p to 5.55p out of which an interim dividend of 1.6p will be paid on January 9

David Brown acquisition

By ADAM JONES

DAVID BROWN, the engineering group, is buying Union Pump Company, a supplier of pumps to the American oil and petrochemical sector, for \$64 million (£38 million) in cash.

David Brown has agreed loan facilities of \$150 million with Bankers Trust to fund the purchase. The surplus will cover Union's \$4.3 million net debt, a refinancing,

working capital and money for future growth.

The purchase is expected to be completed by mid-December.

David Brown said that the deal "moves the group closer to achieving its global aspirations", giving it vital US exposure.

Pumps form the smallest of its three divisions but has the

highest operating profit margins, about 12 per cent last year and 13.5 per cent in the first half of this year.

Union Pump made a pre-tax profit of \$1.2 million in 1996. In the eight months to August 29, profits were increased to \$4 million as management changes began to have an effect.

David Brown shares closed 4p higher at 211.1p yesterday.

Improved results for Benfield & Rea

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SHARES in Benfield & Rea, the Lloyd's investment trust vehicle launched two years ago remained unchanged at 107.1 pence yesterday after the company announced a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £11.4 million to £14.2 million.

The trust, BRIT, was formed from the Benfield Group, run by the late Matthew Harding, the millionaire backer of Chelsea Football Club, and Rea Brothers, the merchant bank.

Its first major move was a successful bid for HCG, a Lloyd's investment trust. It was set up to focus on specialist opportunities in the insur-

ance sector, including the Lloyd's market.

John Colman, chairman of Benfield & Rea, said: "We continue to focus on reshaping BRIT's portfolio of Lloyd's trusts and encouraging management towards achieving shareholder value. Despite a background of soft underwriting conditions there continues to be interest from the company market in managing agency investment at Lloyd's."

The company proposes to pay an interim dividend of 3p, against 0.6p, for the six months to September 30. Shareholders' funds stood at £187 million at the end of the half year.

RM reshuffle brings new role for Fischer

By CHRIS AYRES

MIKE FISCHER, founder and chief executive of RM, the educational software and systems supplier, is to give up his position and work only one day a week for the company.

He will be replaced by Richard Girling, previously managing director and a director for ten years. Mr Fischer, whose personal holdings in RM total almost £22 million, will become president and a non-executive director. He will still have a strategic influence over the company.

The boardroom shake-up comes as the market for schools software systems is expected to double in size to

about £300 million over the next two years. Much excitement has surrounded the sector since the Government's decision to invest £100 million in IT for schools.

RM reported an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to September 30, to £8 million (£6.8 million) on turnover of £110.2 million (£99 million). Earnings rose to 30.8p (25.1p). A total dividend of 9.5p (8p) will be paid on February 3. It said first-half results would be lower than last year, as schools waited for government funding.

Tempus, page 30

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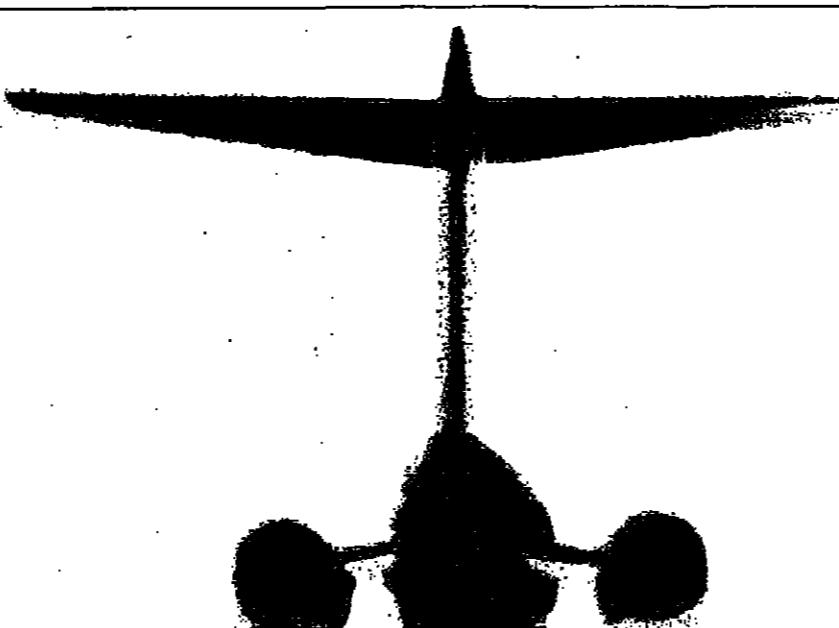
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Richard Cork on the Paris show of works collected by Harry Havemeyer, the 19th-century Sugar King

A sweet tooth for Impressionists

While Sir Henry Tate lavished his fortune on dull, over-priced Royal Academicians, another sugar magnate was amassing a far more adventurous collection in New York. Henry Osborne Havemeyer, usually known as Harry or H.O., had inherited a flourishing refinery business. Nicknamed Sugar King, he might have been expected to frin his wealth on millionaire's baubles. But Havemeyer had a remarkable eye for art. With his even more perceptive wife Louise, he assembled one of the first great collections of Impressionist paintings. Mostly bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum in 1929, they are now enjoying a triumphant Parisian homecoming in a loan exhibition at the Musée d'Orsay.

Although Havemeyer began by purchasing Japanese decorative arts, their emphasis on clear-cut simplification helped to prepare him for the challenge of Impressionism. After all, the boldness of Japanese colour prints was hugely admired by Monet, Van Gogh and their allies. Mary Cassatt, the outstanding American painter who knew Degas well, owed a considerable debt to Japan in her warm, economical studies of family life. When Louise visited Paris in 1874, almost a decade before marrying Harry, she began a life-long friendship with Cassatt.

It was an exhilarating time to discover contemporary French painting. The Impressionists' revolution was at its peak, transforming the possibilities for Western art. But its exhibitions were often vilified, and Louise acted with admirable daring when she acquired a Monet landscape and a ballet rehearsal scene by Degas in 1877. Her commitment to uncompromising modernity had begun, and at this stage she far outstripped her husband-to-be in her willingness to embrace the new spirit in art. He confined himself to Old Masters and the mild-mannered members of the Barbizon school. Even after their marriage in 1883, he persisted in buying paintings by Rembrandt and de Hoog, along with an electrifying El Greco view of Toledo under a thunderous sky. But Louise soon ensured that his financial resources were channelled into supporting the avant-garde as well.

The Havemeyers were not alone in their appetite for innovation. Unlike the British, most of whom regarded Impressionism with outright contempt, the Americans gave an enthusiastic response to the first substantial New York exhibition of paintings by Manet, Renoir, Degas, Pissarro, Monet and Sisley. Organised by the French dealer Durand-Ruel in 1886, the show was



Harry and Louise Havemeyer were conspicuous collectors of Manet's work, buying 25 of his pictures and showing a special fondness for his maritime scenes, such as *En bateau* (1874)

acclaimed by press and public alike, and their open-minded delight compared well with the derision so often heaped on Impressionist shows by the Paris critics.

Hence the extraordinary richness of American museums' holdings in 19th-century French art at its finest. Several voracious collectors began buying at the Durand-Ruel exhibition, and they were able to acquire an abundance of major paintings which France now keenly regrets losing. The Havemeyers lent some of their choicest purchases to the New York show, where they bought Manet's delectable *Still Life with Salmon*. Posing for a full-length photograph in the late 1880s, they look like the epitome of snug bourgeois prosperity, plump and irreproachably respectable. But the Musée d'Orsay show testifies to their capacity for risk-taking. Room after room is

embazoned with the vitality of Impressionist painting at its zenith.

A group of Manets stands out. The Havemeyers amassed no fewer than 25 of his pictures, encompassing the experimental variety of Manet's oeuvre. They range from the nonchalant virtuosity of an early *Young Man in a Majo Costume*, revealing the full extent of his involvement with Spanish art, to a later portrait of Georges Clemenceau, the French Prime Minister, in sketchy, sombre monochrome.

The Havemeyers seem to have been especially fond of Manet's maritime scenes. Sea forms a backdrop for the intimate study of his family at Arcachon, and then fills the foreground of a blustery, freely brushed painting of *The Kearsage at Boulogne*. But the most resplendent handling of water occurs in a view of blue-striped Venetian poles casting their reflections in the shimmering Grand Canal. And his large sailing picture, where the moustached man with a boater appears curiously detached from his female companion, allows sunlight sea and sky to merge in an idyllic expanse of blue.

One of the early Monets on view here, a fresh 1865 painting called *The Green Wave*, is astonishingly close to Manet's *Kearsage* canvas. But the Havemeyers did not stop there. They bought an enchanting, flower-filled canvas of the garden Monet savoured at his first Argenteuil house in 1872.

Their most stunning examples of his work date from the 1890s.

At the beginning of the decade, a painting from the Poplars series proves just how stark the middle-aged Monet could be. The four trees ranged along the riverbank are reduced to their essential forms, and their reflections seem no less solid. It is a marvellously tough picture, as severe in elemental structure as anything Monet produced.

In this respect, the poplars painting could hardly offer a greater contrast: the canvas hanging beside it. For the 1899 view of Charing Cross Bridge is among the most evanescent of Monet's London series.

Seen on a foggy day, when Big Ben vanishes in the haze, the bridge looks unexpectedly fragile. Smoke ascends, glittering with sunlit edges, from steam trains crossing the Thames. But the sailboat on the wind-ripped river below

appears to belong to another, pre-industrial era as it moves through water incandescent with pink and white light.

Louise Havemeyer's attachment to Cassatt, represented here by some luminous and wonderfully unaffected mother and child paintings, meant that Degas's work became a major presence in the Havemeyer collection. The exquisite virtuosity of his early ballet scene is magical enough. Around 20 years earlier, though, Degas returned to the subject in *Rose and Green Dancers*. Now the limbs have become as blurred as the broken texture of their costumes. Degas summarises rather than specifies the details of the backstage setting, and the sliced-off silhouette of a lurking, top-hatted male admirer is barely detectable in the shadows.

If Degas is a hero of the Havemeyers, they did not extend their largesse to all the Impressionists. Sisley is represented by a token landscape that fails to show this underrated artist at his best. As for Renoir, a painter so eagerly sought by other American collectors, he is nowhere to be seen. The Havemeyers bought only one of his paintings, a shameless chocolate-box

woman who has been understandably excluded from the collection.

Most of the Post-Impressionists found no place in the collection either. But the absence of Gauguin and Van Gogh did not mean that the Havemeyers rejected Cézanne. His room is full of vastly impressive images. Mont Saint-Victoire, seen from a distance with a noble viaduct extending to the side, is partially hidden by tall foreground pine-trees. A decade later, Cézanne closes on some boulders in a dimly lit wood. Flattened and yet still substantial, they help to explain why the Cubists regarded the master of Aix as their lodestar.

But a flower piece proves that severity in Cézanne could be matched by surprising tenderness and sensuality. Nor should his earlier work be regarded simply as a stumbling prelude to the sublime achievements of his old age. A still life executed around 1877 is one of the most satisfying works on display here. The mound of remarkably edible apples on the linen cloth, no less than the filled cup and vase behind, are defined with all the authority of his later, more extravagantly reverend canvases.

The Havemeyer collection must have amounted to an astounding spectacle when hung in their specially designed New York mansion. Embellished with Tiffany glass and a dramatic suspended staircase, the house should not have been demolished in 1930. But the paintings once displayed there have all been preserved, to glorify the moment when Americans discovered Impressionism and succumbed without a struggle.

● Collection Havemeyer at the Musée d'Orsay, Paris (01 33 40 44 81) until Jan 18



A guide to the best CD recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

FAURÉ'S PIANO QUARTETS
Reviewed by Roger Nichols

Fauré's two piano quartets were first performed in Paris in the 1880s. Fauré had few contemporary works to use as models, so it is all the more astonishing that these two were successful right from the start.

Like much of Fauré's music, they demand an ear both for intricate detail and for overall structure. Jean-Philippe Collard, renowned as a performer of Fauré's solo piano music, is reluctant to retire into the background when the score demands, and often his forte playing comes over as hectoring. In contrast, the Ensemble Villa Musica takes a quieter, more intimate approach. While this is valid in short stretches, it leads to a crucial failure of energy in the sonata-form movements, as well as in the demonic scherzo of the Second Quartet.

Unfortunately, the recording by the Nash Ensemble suffers from inaccuracies in the last movements of both quartets: given the standard of their playing elsewhere, it is a great pity these passages were not retaken.

Of the seven pairings available for review, two stand out. In the Sony recording by Isaac Stern, Jaime Laredo, Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax the actual sound is often ravishing, with Stern not stinting on the *portamenti* which Fauré would have expected to hear. Occasionally, in the last movement of the First Quartet, Ax goes through the tone, and in the fleet-footed scherzo the pulse is not always absolutely secure. By large, they are more persuasive in the high drama of the Second Quartet, and their performance of the scherzo is splendidly vicious. But they sometimes dawdle and I am not convinced by the opening bells.

But my choice is the 1985 recording by Domus (Hyperion CDA 66166 £14.49). While alive to every nuance in the slower movements, they display a truly wonderful energy in the faster ones, showing the passionate side of Fauré which is too often ignored.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO881, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

AS THE holiday season nears, many galleries seem to feel it is a good time to show off a little, by placing a spectacular array of goods in their shop window. It is difficult, though, to remember a more spectacular display than that currently on show at the two halves of the recently consummated Spink/Leger link-up. Though Spink has had its regular shows of painting, watercolours in particular, it is generally associated much more with objets d'art, notably jewellery, coins and medals, ceramics and oriental art of all sorts. Leger, on the other hand, has had a reputation for its classic British painting.

The two shows running in tandem at present suggest that not so much has changed. At the old Leger gallery in Bond Street there is a resplendent show of British Paintings, Watercolours and Drawings held by Spink and Leger, including naturally examples of the artists currently attracting attention because of anniversaries (the bicentenary of Hogarth's birth, the bicentenary of Joseph Wright of Derby's death) or notable museum shows (Sir Henry Raeburn, Francis Towne), as well as several Indian pieces by the Daniells and excellent orientalist works.

At Spink the accent is on versatility. The Many Faces of Spink has a handful of paintings by early 19th-century RAs such as Sir Thomas Lawrence and John Russell, but they are outshone by the ritual masks from Tibet, the set of sterling silver stirrup

cups, the 5th-century Gandharan head of Bodhisattva, the strangely sinuous earthenware head from 5th/7th-century Japan, or the Elizabethan 5th-issue pound coin featuring the Queen's image in hammered gold.

Spink, 5 King Street, SW1 (0171-747 6808); Spink/Leger, 13 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 3538). Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, until Dec 12

IN ART, humour tends to be consigned to a special category, along with the cartoon and the book illustration. It is perfectly fine in its place, of course, but surely that place is not a serious gallery wall. Clearly the Crane Kalman Gallery does not think so, hence the present show, *Essence of Humour*. It is all in a good cause, a proportion of the proceeds being donated to Comic Relief, but the opportunity has been taken to look fairly and squarely at the role played by humour in the work of a wide range of 20th-century artists.

The element of shock and dislocation of normal responses which is Surrealism's trademark is quite likely to provoke laughter, if only nervous, and the work of the American boxer Joseph Cornell is generally calculated to produce at least a smile. The painters of the Neo-Expressionist Cobra group loved to cock a snook at convention, and a work like Karel Appel's *It looks Like a Cat* (as indeed it does, sort of) is definitely amusing. Calder, even at his weightiest, is always playful, and various

aspects of British humour, camp and deadpan respectively, find a prominent place in the art of Edward Burra and L.S. Lowry. An early and whimsical Lichtenstein, *Le Château*, is a rarity, and it must be said that the professional humorists Steinberg and Gross look completely at home in this company.

Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 7566). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, until Dec 6

THE great age of British book illustration is normally supposed to have ended well before Mike Wilks started in the mid-Seventies. But Wilks, 50 this year, is a survivor of the Swinging Sixties, his intricate fantasies suggestive of *Monty Python* and *The Yellow Submarine* rather than Rackham or even Emmett. All the same, he has managed to produce a number of bestsellers, and apparently holds the curious title of WH Smith's most shoplifted author with *The Ultimate Alphabet* (1986). The originals of his illustrations are occasionally pen-and-ink or gouache on paper, but more frequently they prove to be fully fledged acrylic paintings on canvas or panel. The work will hardly be to everyone's taste, but there is no denying that Wilks knows exactly what effect he wants to achieve.

Gekko Gallery, Pied Bull Yard, 15a Bloomsbury Square WC1 (0171-404 6676). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until Dec 5

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NT
Royal National Theatre

BRIEFLY NOTED

MUSEUMS: Despite the Labour Government's apparently implacable commitment to keeping the Elgin Marbles as an integral part of the British Museum's collections, campaigners for the return of the Marbles to Greece are organising a "day of action" on December 5. There will be demonstrations outside the BM and the Department of Culture that day, and a "mass e-mailing" of the Government, the BM, the Labour Party and British embassies around the world is also being planned. Those wishing to protest, or curious to sample the arguments, should tune their computers to <http://www.uk.digiserve.com/mentor/marbles/>.

Sculpture: After two years of persistent Antipodean argument, Westminster council has agreed to allow Australia House in the Strand to be lit up by a giant "light sculpture and concrete poem". At 7.30pm on Thursday the facade above the grand entrance will be illuminated with a large circle of letters spelling the words HEAR THE ART — or, if read differently, HEART HEARTH EARTH. It is the work of the Australian conceptual artist Richard Tipping, who once claimed brief notoriety by wrapping a large ribbon round the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

MUSIC: Britain's top choirs have until January 9 to apply for the 1998 Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition, the country's largest choral contest. Next year's competition has three categories: youth, mixed sex and single sex. There are no restrictions on style: gospel, barbershop, chamber and church choirs have prospered in past years. The semi-finals and finals (at the Buxton Opera House next November) will be shown on BBC TV. Details from the organisers on 0171-221 7883.

THEATRE: You don't have to wear Lycra shorts, but it might help. Opening at the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton tomorrow is a play called *Le Tour de France*, which (guess what?) is all about the Tour de France. A company of steel-thighed actors from the Théâtre des Deux Rives in Rouen will enact the dramas of the historic cycle-race over the years, harnessing "rolling road technology" so that they can cycle on stage without careering into the wings. They perform in French, but the theatre promises a free half-hour French lesson before each performance — and, if that proves inadequate to the task, surtitles.

FILM: The world's first piece of cricket film — of Prince Ranjitsinhji practising in the nets at Sydney exactly 100 years ago — will be shown at an Archive Cricket Evening staged by the British Film Institute at the National Film Theatre on December 9. Also to be shown during the evening will be newsreel footage of Denis Compton, the England cricketer and footballer who died earlier this year.

In Washington DC, Patrick Stewart's Moor has highlighted the black-white divide in American theatre. Jeremy Kingston reports

Patrick Stewart's appearance in both senses of the word as a white Moor heading an all-black cast of Venetians focuses attention on a current crisis in the American theatre. The crisis is part sword of Damocles, part hornet's nest, and though attempts are made to pacify the nest, the buzzing stays loud and the thread is visibly fraying.

Even definitions of the situation are contested but, broadly speaking, the concern is how best to include black actors and black audiences in the predominantly white-run theatres supported by predominantly white-sourced private funding. The vehement arguments for and against any proposed solution create the buzzing; the alarm of the funders lest they be accused of elitism is the fraying thread.

A year ago August Wilson, the leading black American play-

Skin-deep Othello misfires

wright, denounced colour-blind casting. To employ black actors in "white" roles was "to cast us in the role of 'mimics'". Black actors should not even perform in plays written by whites. If an all-black cast played, he said, in *Death of a Salesman* this would "deny us our humanity".

Understandably, Wilson's extreme position finds little favour among black actors and directors; nor, for that matter, among white directors, whether in America or Britain, who readily cast black actors in "white" plays. Their reasons will be various: best available actor for the role; increasing opportunities available to black actors; funding dependent on doing the PC thing.

The PC factor is what has denied a generation of white actors the chance to play the Moor. Only the lofty position Stewart has reached through *Star Trek: The Next Generation* has made it possible for him, and then in what he calls this "photo-negative" production at Washington's Shakespeare Theatre. The director of this Othello is our own Jude Kelly, and the setting is contemporary, so that Stewart's Othello must be understood as a white mercenary engaged by a black republic. Mostly, the production doesn't work, though not only because photo-negativism presents trickier problems than colour-blindness.

The displays of love between Stewart and Patrice Johnson's Des-

demonia are credible and delightful. So long and rapturously do they embrace on landing in Cyprus, with the guard at the salute throughout, they could be Antony and Cleopatra about to lose the world for love. Placing a pause before the final word in "When I love thee not, chaos is come again" conjures up a previous way of life lacking form and ultimate purpose.

But far too many of the cast do not. The gravest failure centres on Ron Canada's Iago, who deals well enough with the needling echoes that open his wicked work but generates too little tension elsewhere. No chemistry exists between him and Stewart, and in

The incidents extend from the revelation of Jefferson's slave-concubine to Clinton's distractions, but in its present version the show is a mess, perceptive nuggets glittering in a mound of clichés. Devere Smith's approach to casting, however, despite Wilson's diatribe against "mimicity", looks to be the best way forward.

As is that of People's Light and Theatre Company at Malvern, Pennsylvania, where a racially mixed resident company extends the principle of diversity to include the determined encouragement of mixed audiences. Their Family Series of productions, such as the current *Beauty and the Beast*, offers work with an appeal for adults and children together. The immediate hope is that families will discuss the productions among themselves, and over a longer term that children will grow up accustomed to colour-blind casting.

MICK SCOTT/NEWS TEAM

Murder without a moral

Director James Macdonald shocked us with *Blasted*. Now he's doing it again, says James Christopher

James Macdonald, a soft-spoken, owlish-looking theatre director, does not seem the sort who takes pleasure in baiting critics and shocking audiences. But you can never tell these days. Some of the nicest do, especially when there are reputations to be made and issues at stake.

It is three years since Macdonald was deemed to have lost every shred of human decency when he directed Sarah Kane's debut play, *Blasted*, at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. It might as well be decades. Few now remember how the critics went for the production, appealed at the "feast of filth" (*Daily Mail*) that unfolded when a tabloid hack and a young epileptic girl were trapped in a hotel room with a rampaging soldier. "Masturbation, frottage, micturition, fellatio, defecation, rape, eye-gouging and cannibalism" listed *The Guardian* disapprovingly.

Blasted barely merits a mention when we meet to discuss Macdonald's latest project, not because he doesn't like discussing controversies, but simply because he has always looked through and beyond them. *Roberto Zucco*, by the visionary French playwright Bernard-Marie Koltès, is just as inflammable in its way as *Blasted* — and not only because the play is based on the true story of an Italian who murdered his parents at the age of 19.

The real *Zucco* (Koltès changed the spelling) was declared to be a paranoid schizophrenic, locked up in an asylum and left to rot. He escaped at the age of 24,

His point is that everybody has the potential to snap

old girl admitted having an affair with him."

Inspired by a wanted poster on the Paris Metro showing four completely different images of the suspect, Koltès began work on the play.

"There's an illustrious history of writers using real people like *Zucco*," says Macdonald. "But it's been tarnished by the glut of artists appropriating serial killers. What's so refreshing about Koltès is that he looks at our fascination with these figures in an entirely original way. He removes almost every culturally significant signpost."

But far from being an anonymous litany of grotesqueries, Koltès's play is full of poetry, humour and insight. "His point is that everybody has the potential to snap," explains Macdonald. "We are driven by desires and needs that are deeper than we can

understand. That's why all the characters, apart from *Zucco*, are archetypes: Panic-Stricken Prostitute, Melancholy Detective. They don't have psychological profiles. These are people who invent themselves from one moment to the next. Even *Zucco*, like the poster, is different from scene to scene. Which makes these characters accessible to lots of different interpretations, and extremely difficult to play."

Zucco committed suicide in prison by putting a plastic bag over his head (the same way he murdered his father). He was 26. "What's striking about *Zucco*'s treatment of death," continues Macdonald, "is that it's not tied to any agenda. There are no state-of-the-nation speeches and no moralising. That makes the whole experience much more scary. It's open to interpretation."

As deputy artistic director of the Royal Court, the thirty-something Macdonald is closer to these traditions than most. Why, one wonders, has he taken this gem to the RSC? "The current British scene is so vibrant that it's hard to

justify spending a fortune on a dead French writer at the Court," says Macdonald with admirable pithiness. "The play is also peculiarly suited to the RSC. It's very classical in its ambition and resonances. Koltès's gods were Racine, Marivaux and Shakespeare. What's extraordinary about the writing is the formal theatrical language he forges from the street."

There is also a desire on Macdonald's part to spread his wings. He had, he admits, thought about gunning for the Royal Court job after Stephen Daldry announced he was leaving, but more out of a desire to ensure that the Court carried on taking risks rather than ending up with "a safe pair of hands". Ian Rickson's appointment ("absolutely the right one") killed two birds with one stone. Macdonald can take his risks at the Court but also chance his arm elsewhere. The RSC, I suspect, is the lucky beneficiary of a shrewd gamble.

• Roberto Zucco opens at The Other Place in Stratford-upon-Avon (01799 395623) tomorrow

director, the composer and his witty librettist, Olivier Cadiot — registered little. Perhaps the most authentic reaction was to give up trying to register as it became clear that, even though the lovers are manipulated by a wordy character called Bill, the Shakespearean allusions are no more meaningful than anything else in the piece.

Liberated from efforts to make sense of it, the text could be heard as music and, as Dusapin puts it, the music as text. While the score has no distinctive personality, under Lucas Piatoff's direction it did have a hypnotic effect, not least in an interlude of aboriginal music for vocal quartet and clarinet.

With most of the platform of Huddersfield Town Hall occupied by the English Northern Philharmonic, Vox Nova and the London Sinfonietta Voices, there was little that the stage director, Stephen Langridge, could do. The five principal singers — among whom Françoise Kubler and Nicholas Underwood were outstanding as one of two pairs of Romeros and Juliets — were given scarves to colour-code them and strip-light squares to stand in. A fully staged version would probably have achieved little more.

As it happens, the most profound impression made by the first British performance of Pascal Dusapin's opera *Roméo et Juliette* was the dents in the kneecaps. The open mind — prepared in advance by an amiable public discussion between the festival

and the composer and his witty librettist, Olivier Cadiot — registered little. Perhaps the most authentic reaction was to give up trying to register as it became clear that, even though the lovers are manipulated by a wordy character called Bill, the Shakespearean allusions are no more meaningful than anything else in the piece.

THE Donizetti bicentenary is not being marked with any fervour in this country. A certain British puritanism decrees that since he wrote more than 60 operas in a working life of less than 30 years he can't really be a serious composer. But while no one would argue that even half those 60 are deathless masterpieces, up to a dozen are never going to lapse from the repertory.

He took great care with the late *Linda di Chamounix* (1842). In addition to some memorable tunes, the score is packed with instrumental detail: deft application of woodwind colour; varied accompaniments for recurring themes; adventurous harmonies. There is scarcely a whiff of routine in *Linda*.

Rather to everyone's surprise Mark Elder has long nursed a passion for the piece,

GERALD LARNER

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Balcony nonsense

NEW MUSIC

Romeo et Juliette

Huddersfield

IT'S cold and foggy and there seems to be nothing open after six except pubs and takeaways. You are in an ill-designed town hall, sitting sideways in an effort to avoid crushing your knees against the seat in front, and you are feeling inadequate in your limited understanding of what is happening on stage. But since the piece is new to you and something exciting could emerge at any moment, you really don't begrudge the discomfort. It can only be the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

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LAW

Going straight to the Bar

Frances Gibb on a new scheme to improve access to lawyers and, below, Hilary Heilbron, QC, on the thinking behind it

People will no longer have to pay a solicitor before they brief a barrister under a groundbreaking scheme launched last week. The Bar Council pilot enables advice bureaux, law centres and Shelter, the housing charity, to instruct barristers directly, thus saving people the cost of paying first for a solicitor.

The initiative dismantles one of the last restrictive practices of the legal profession, which requires members of the public to use a solicitor to instruct a barrister.

Under the 12-month project, seven advice agencies — including Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureaux — will join in partnership with 18 sets of chambers. If successful, the scheme is likely to be seen as a blueprint for the Government's proposed community legal service which envisages a key role for the advice sector in the delivery of legal services.

The Bar already allows other professions to brief barristers directly. Now it has

amended its rules so that advice workers can refer cases, both legally aided and private, without the need to go to a solicitor first.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has welcomed the project: "It is no longer good enough for the legal profession to carry on doing the same old things in the same old ways, regardless of the expense to the taxpayer or the privately paying client," he says.

"People understandably wonder whether it is really always necessary to instruct a solicitor when they want advice from a barrister and whether this is not just another way of ensuring that, whatever else happens, the lawyers continue to make money."

Dave McNeil, spokesman for the Law Society, says the society was not opposed: "As long as cases are properly prepared, we cannot see any problem. After all, we are pressing to break down the Bar's monopoly of advocacy in the Crown Courts so we cannot really object to this."

Choice, flexibility and not a lot to pay

Legal advice agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux play an invaluable role in the provision of legal services. They are the first port of call for millions of people affected by matters with legal implications. They provide easily accessible advice and sympathetic understanding to those unclear about their rights and responsibilities. Much of their work does not involve great legal knowledge, but this is changing.

The advice agencies' role in providing legal services is to be extended by this Government as part of its community legal service programme. Traditionally, such agencies have concentrated on areas such as welfare benefits, housing, employments and debt. But it is likely that their services will in future be used for a wider spread of legal problems.

Under a Legal Aid Board pilot scheme now under way, non-solicitor agencies — those without qualified legal staff — have been franchised by the board so that they receive

funds from the board for specified areas of work. This is part of what the Lord Chancellor recently described as the "refocusing of the legal aid scheme". Fast-track hearings as proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, are likely to provide a further impetus to a wider range of services from advice agencies.

At present, where qualified legal advice or professional advocacy is needed, the arrangements are cumbersome both for agencies and clients.

If the matter is beyond the legal competence or experience of the advice centre, options are currently limited. Lawyers — both barristers and solicitors — do give considerable help free of charge, but this cannot cope with the potential volume.

Essentially, once a matter needs professional legal help, it has to be sent to a solicitor, irrespective of whether it is complicated or not. The individual has to repeat his problem to someone else before, if appropriate, a barrister can be



instructed. Often the agency is fully familiar with the facts but needs an expert legal opinion or a professional advocate to represent the individual in court or before a tribunal.

To tackle this problem, the Bar Council has agreed in principle that barristers may be instructed directly by advice agencies in appropriate cases. The client and agency will have a much wider choice of lawyer and greater flexibility in how to handle a case. Costs will also be reduced, not least because barristers' charges tend to be competitive. Many cases will still be referred to solicitors, but there is considerable scope for an increasing number of referrals directly to barristers in relatively simple cases.

The pilot scheme is a first step. It will be closely monitored and extended if successful. Guidelines have been prepared for both the agencies and barristers. Advance information on the barrister's fees will be given so that clients can budget their costs. The service provided by the advice agencies will remain free.

To ensure appropriate standards, all the agencies involved are already franchised by the Legal Aid Board under the first wave of non-solicitor agency franchising. The second stage is to extend the scheme to representation in the lower courts and tribunals. This is farther-reaching, but just as compelling in its potential to fulfil an unmet need.

The initiative will enable legal aid resources allocated to advice agencies to be more effectively targeted, and in time, increased. It will also enable those above the legal aid threshold, "middle-income Britain", to acquire the services of a lawyer at a price they can afford.

• The author is chairman of the Bar Council working party on direct referral to legal advice agencies.

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Irvine's support

LORD IRVINE of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has been hinting that he wants the Bar Council to forge ahead with its cautious policy of slowly opening up the profession to direct referrals. Last week he wrote to Hilary Heilbron, QC, to congratulate her on the Bar's pilot scheme to give advice centres direct access to barristers (see above).

He added: "I am sure the Bar Council will consider what other areas can be opened up to direct referral..."

Early days

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, was in a reflective mood last week when she officially opened the North London legal aid firm Hodge Jones & Allen's new premises during its 20th anniversary celebrations — an event which drew the entire great and good of new Labour. She made a point of praising the firm for its commitment to helping the disadvantaged when, she said, many were questioning whether it was still worth trying to help the less well-off.

She also revealed her own close links with the firm, founded a few months after

she started practising. She regularly took instructions from it, including her first case before the Queen's Bench Division, and was such good friends with one employee, Maggie Rae, now of Mishcon de Reya, that she and her husband, Tony Blair, spent the first three months of their marriage living with her.

Centre-stage
JOHN MORTIMER, QC, is still much in demand as an after or pre-dinner speaker — three legal occasions have

called on his services recently. He spoke on *Law: Fact or Fiction?* for the Margaret Howard Memorial Lecture. The event organised by her daughter, Gill Howard, an employment lawyer whose friends come from beyond the law to embrace the likes of Arnold Wesker.

Ms Howard says: "My parents were great theatregoers in Coventry, where Arnold's plays were first staged."

Fair plea
THE campaign group Fair

Trials Abroad and its director Stephen Jakobi were regularly called on to comment on the Louise Woodward case. The London-based charity handles individual casework, runs a database for lawyers and conducts research projects into access to justice abroad.

But for how much longer can it help British citizens who face trials in foreign courthouses without a new injection of funds? It is labouring under an overdraft approaching £40,000. Mr Jakobi does not draw a salary.

Ms Howard says: "My parents were great theatregoers in Coventry, where Arnold's plays were first staged."

Young judge

TWO popular High Court

judges have just been announced: David Pannick, QC, 55, a deputy High Court judge, criminal practitioner and last year's Bar Chairman; and Stephen Richards, who since 1992 has been responsible for acting for the Government in civil cases in his role as First Junior Treasury Counsel. Richards, at 46, is one of the youngest High Court judges to have been appointed.

SCRIVENOR

STEUART & FRANCIS



Dr Pannick, I presume

THE leading QC and Times columnist David Pannick has been awarded an honorary doctorate in law by the University of Herefordshire — and it is part of his writing. Professor Nell Buxton, Vice-Chancellor, paid tribute to Mr Pannick's work as a lawyer, academic and journalist.

Queen's Counsel

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- BOARDROOM SECRETS 41
- BARRELS OF MONEY 41

Half a century of being reasonable

This month is the 50th birthday of a judgment that so far has been cited in more civil court cases than perhaps any other. In November 1947, the Court of Appeal delivered its decision in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation*. Not a week has passed since when the "Wednesbury principles" have not been intoned in courtrooms and lawyers' offices throughout Britain.

The principles have since become the touchstone of the courts when deciding judicial review cases. Since 1947 there has been an exponential growth in the number of bodies and individuals who have been entrusted with important discretionary powers, and consequently of people complaining about unreasonable decisions.

The Wednesbury principles have been called upon in court to determine the outcome of many major disputes, could Leicester City Council ban a local rugby club from using a local sports ground after the club had failed to stop some of its members from touring South Africa during apartheid in 1984? Could the Ministry of Defence discharge from the Armed Forces four people because of their sexual orientation? Was the Home Secretary acting within his powers when, in 1988, he issued a notice to the BBC and IBA requiring them to refrain from broadcasting any words spoken by groups such as Sinn Fein, the IRA and the Ulster Defence Association? Were the television authorities acting within their powers in granting the Referendum Party only one party political broadcast in the last general election?

A decision to give preferential treatment to a councillor by awarding her a council house ahead of the queue was declared unlawful as it was influenced by the view of the chairman of the housing committee that it would help to get her re-elected. Similarly, the decision of a local authority to switch its advertisements for teachers from *The Times Higher Educational Supplement* to another paper because the leader of the council was suing the newspaper's publishers for libel was held to be unlawful.

There were 3,604 applications to the High Court for judicial review in 1995, the last year for which figures are available. If delegated powers continue to grow, and if the Wednesbury principles reach their 100th birthday without being overruled, an unreasonably large human effort will be spent on the determination of what is reasonable.

• Dr Slapper is Director of the Law Programme at the Open University.



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An information pack giving full details of the post and other information can be obtained from Julia Devlin, Head of Administrative and Financial Services, Cleveland Magistrates' Courts Committee, The Law Courts, Victoria Square, Middlesbrough, TS1 2AS. Telephone 01642 240301 Extension 209. Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 15th December 1997 with interviews expected to take place in early February 1998.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1997

HOUSE

Wheels of Eastern deals oiled

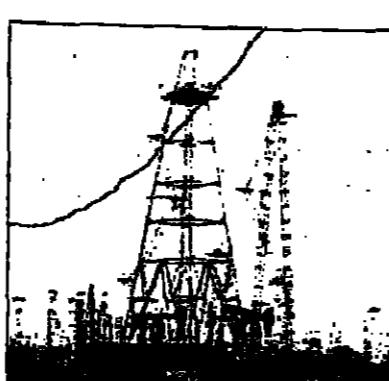
Investments in Russia are paying off, says Edward Fennell

Sights of relief were being heard around City law firms last week at the announcements of Royal Dutch-Shell's link with Gazprom, and British Petroleum's purchase of 10 per cent of Sidaimo and the accompanying stake in vast gasfields on the Chinese border. For those with strong energy and mineral practices in the former Soviet Union, the deals were a vindication of the time and money invested during the past seven years. Alan Jowett, head of the oil and gas group at Herbert Smith, comments: "These deals indicate that a threshold in development has been passed. It confirms that this sector will now start expanding at an ever-increasing rate."

By Western standards it has been a long time coming, but lawyers who know the area advise that the only way to operate in Russia and the new independent states is by thinking long-term. Mark Saunders, a partner with Nabarro Nathanson, says: "First you make friends, then you make partners; then you do deals and then you make money. You cannot short-circuit that sequence."

Many of the big firms have invested in offices and staffing in Russia and Kazakhstan in the hope that it will pay off. But life has occasionally been uncomfortable as their London partners in less exotic sectors have questioned when the profits will start to flow. Political instability, corruption and the difficulties of the area have sown doubts about whether business will ever take off.

For those who knew about energy and minerals, there was never any question about the importance of the area. It would just take time. Spurred on by last week's news, lawyers who have believed in the potential of the region are now preparing to move forward. This week, for example, Alan Jowett is in Moscow for three days



Oil well in Baku: expanding work

with a view to the firm establishing an office there. In the past, it was hard to choose whether or not to have a local presence. Now the arguments are more clear-cut. In any case, rival firms such as Clifford Chance and Linklaters, which have been acting for BP, have had offices in Russia for years. So, too, have some of the smaller players with strong energy interests, such as Denton Hall.

The knock-on effects of these big deals is likely to be enormous as Western suppliers and investors — from providers of technical plants to hoteliers — receive a boost to their confidence. As one lawyer commented: "When you see Shell and BP going in on a massive scale, it gives you reassurance that it is worth persevering."

It also marks an important stage in the growing credibility of commercial law in those jurisdictions after a period of extensive reform. As Alan Jowett points out: "There are still inconsistencies and gaps in local law out there and lags in the process of reform. But major investors now understand what can be achieved and are confident that the law will give them sufficient protection."

Most deals are concluded in a mix of English, New York and local law, according to the shape of the transaction. Where land is concerned, for example, there is no alternative to the use of local statutes.

There is no question, however, that Western investors are looking for more than legal knowledge when selecting their legal advisers for projects in these territories. For example, the Morrison Construction Group, based in London, was active recently in Azerbaijan, undertaking large-scale projects for Western oil consortiums. Its legal advisers are the niche Aberdeen oil practice, Ledgum Chalmers, which also has a "working presence" in Baku.

CALLING all students: there are just under two weeks before the December 5 deadline for The Times Law Awards competition held in collaboration with One Essex Court, the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC. Prizes totalling £6,000 are on offer for the best articles of no more than 1,000 words on *Privacy and the Press: is Law the Answer?* The winning article will be published in *The Times* and the awards will be presented at a dinner next year.

• Full details 0171-583 2000, or see Law, October 14 (via Library in Resources) on *The Times* Website at: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Stephen Silber, QC, on the Law Commission's proposed offence for the misuse of trade secrets

Trade secrets cannot be stolen under present law because they do not constitute "property" for the purpose of the Theft Act 1968. This aspect of the law has been strongly criticised because in the words of an eminent parliamentarian, this is a country where "the theft of the boardroom table is punished far more severely than the theft of the boardroom secrets".

Other jurisdictions have extended the protection of the criminal law to the deliberate misuse of confidential business information; for example, the majority of American states and a number of European countries, including France and Germany, provide criminal sanctions against the misuse of trade secrets. In a consultation paper published today, *Misuse of Trade Secrets* (LCCP 150), we have provisionally concluded that there should be criminal sanctions for the misuse of trade secrets essentially because there is no distinction between harm caused by the theft and the deliberate misuse of trade secrets. In both cases, the assets are being used for the benefit of the wrongdoer and the owner is likely to be caused damage. We are conscious that vast amounts of money are spent on producing trade secrets such as manufacturing formula and technical data, and it seems strange that the criminal law does not provide a sanction.

It is also inconsistent for the law to provide criminal sanctions for the infringement of copyright and registered trademarks but not for the misuse of trade secrets. We also believe that civil remedies alone are insufficient to discourage trade secret misuse, as many wrongdoers do not have the funds to satisfy any judgment against them. At present the law has no effective sanctions against the person who dishonestly misuses trade secrets and has no assets.

The Law Commission is very anxious that any new offence should be very clear, and therefore provisionally proposes that the definition of a "trade secret" should include a requirement that the owner had indicated — expressly or impliedly — his wish to keep it secret. We invite views on whether the definition of trade secrets should make a reference to the use of the information in a trade or business and, if so, whether the definition should extend to information used in a profession or in non-commercial research.

Our provisional view is that the new offence should be committed by any person who uses or discloses a trade secret belonging to another without that other's consent. By "belonging to another" we mean the person is entitled to the benefit of the trade secret.

The Law Commission provisionally proposes that it should be an element of the new offence that the defendant knows that the information in question is a trade secret belonging to another and that he is aware that the other does not (or may not) consent to its use or disclosure.

The proposed new offence must be

Secrets of success stay in the boardroom



The theft of the boardroom table is punished far more severely than the theft of the boardroom secrets

defined so that it does not prevent socially desirable conduct. So we are very anxious that there should be a public interest defence and propose that the new offence should not apply to any disclosure or information which under the law of confidence would be justified on grounds of public interest. Our provisional view is that that there should be no criminal liability for the use or disclosure of a trade secret for the purpose of prevention, detection or exposure of crime, fraud or breach of duty, or which constitutes the present or future threat to the health or wealth of the community. The press will therefore be protected.

Our proposed offence deals with the misuse of trade secrets but we invite views on whether the law should also cover the acquisition of a trade secret and, if so, whether this could be achieved by creating an offence of acquiring a trade secret with the intention of using it or disclosing it or an offence of acquiring a trade secret by wrongful means or an offence defined in some other way.

We are concerned that the proposed offence could be misused by a plaintiff threatening a defendant with a private prosecution for the new offence. We therefore provisionally propose that a prosecution for the new offence should be brought only with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The existence of our proposed offence might mean that defendants in civil proceedings could claim that they need not give information or provide docu-

ments because of the fear of incriminating themselves for the new offence.

We propose that a person should not be entitled to rely on the privilege against self-incrimination in respect not only of our proposed offence but also of any conspiracy to commit it. To safeguard the person who gives information or provides documents at civil proceedings, we propose that such information or documents would not be permissible against that person save for proceedings for perjury or contempt of court.

We wish to obtain views from as many people as possible. Responses welcomed by March 20, 1998.

• Misuse of Trade Secrets (LCCP 150) (£20, obtainable on Internet soon at: <http://www.greys.gov.uk/lawcom/law/homepage.htm>

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL: INSPIRED GREEN BAY DESTROY DALLAS CLAIMS TO SUPERIORITY

Favre sends frozen Cowboys packing

By OLIVER HOLT

BARRY SWITZER has done it again. The coach of the Dallas Cowboys, famous for giving himself a hefty boot in the mouth every few months, said last week that his team still regarded themselves as the true Super Bowl champions, in spite of the fact that the Green Bay Packers won the National Football League's ultimate prize last year. On Sunday, the Packers gave their reply.

Perhaps Mike Holmgren, the Green Bay coach, had taped Switzer's words up on the locker-room walls because what happened at Lambeau Field at the weekend was about as clear an example of the passing of the flame from one team to another as it is possible to get.

With a crushing 45-17 win over a Cowboy team that it had not beaten in eight previous attempts, the Packers reinforced the growing feeling that they, and not the Cowboys, have now assumed the mantle of being "America's Team".

Three times in the past seven years, the Cowboys stood between the Packers and the Super Bowl in the play-offs and each time Dallas emerged triumphant. On Sunday, the Packers finally got the Cowboys where they wanted them, on the "frozen tundra" of their home stadium in northern Wisconsin, and this time they exacted their revenge.

Brett Favre, their quarterback, threw for four touchdowns and their running back, Dorsey Levens, rushed for 190 yards, a record for Green Bay. The Packers have now won six of their past seven games and went into a clear lead at the top of the National Football Conference central division.

The Cowboys, who have lost half of their opening 12 games, face the indignity of not even making the play-offs, an eventuality that will almost certainly lead to the sack for Switzer, a man once labelled "Bozo the Coach" by the national media.

After a tight first half, the Packers burst into a commanding lead in the third quarter, when Favre threw two touchdown passes to the



Gus Frerotte, the Washington Redskins quarterback, eludes Bernard Holsey to score a second-quarter touchdown against the New York Giants

Green Bay tight end, Mark Chimura. "It's great finally to beat these guys," Favre said. "It's a shame it took so long but we finally did it and, believe me, they are still good."

With the Cowboys effectively removed from the reckoning, it seems that only the San Francisco 49ers stand between the Packers and another place in the Super Bowl, in San Diego on January 25. That particular obstacle to Green Bay ambition, though, seems to be growing with every game that the 49ers play.

On Sunday, on home territory, San Francisco broke a franchise record by winning their eleventh consecutive regular-season game with a 17-10 win over the San Diego Chargers. Steve Young, their quarterback, who is in the midst of a welcome renaissance, threw for two touchdowns and also moved into second place in the all-time quarterback rushing list.

"It is nice to get 11 straight," Steve Mariucci, the San Francisco coach, said. "We wanted to cut loose today but quite simply it just did not happen. Obviously we want to be better. We would like to be a bit more consistent."

Last year the New York Jets were the most consistent team in the National Football League: they lost 15 of their 16

games. On Sunday, though, they continued the remarkable transformation effected by their new coach, Bill Parcells, when they beat the Minnesota Vikings 23-21 to regain sole possession of the lead in the American Football Conference eastern division.

There was a deeper significance to the win, too. It was the Jets' eighth of the season and it meant that they were now assured, at the least, of not having more losses than wins at the end of the regular season, a record that was inconceivable this time last year. "That was a big, big win for us today," Parcells said. "They can't call us losers any more."

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Arizona 16 Baltimore 13; Tennessee 31 Buffalo 14; Green Bay 45 Dallas 17; Green Bay 17 Atlanta 10; Green Bay 27 Miami 26; New York Jets 23 Minnesota 21; Atlanta 20; New Orleans 3; Philadelphia 23; Pittsburgh 20; Chicago 13 Tampa Bay 7; Green Bay 17; Detroit 18; Carolina 10; Jacksonville 26; Kansas City 12 Seattle 14; San Francisco 17; San Diego 10; New York Giants 7; Washington 7

Note including last night's match: Denver v Oakland

American Conference Eastern division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
NY Jets	8	4	0	263	232
Miami	7	5	0	266	216
New England	7	5	0	266	216
Buffalo	5	7	0	197	265
Indians	1	11	0	203	328
Cincinnati	4	8	0	225	308

Central division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	316	224
Minnesota	8	4	0	274	262
Tampa Bay	8	4	0	242	192
Detroit	6	6	0	267	230
Chicago	2	10	0	195	322

Western division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco	11	1	0	235	149
Carolina	6	5	0	205	256
Atlanta	4	7	0	205	256
New Orleans	6	6	0	154	245
St Louis	2	10	0	202	281

Note: won division title

TENNIS

Novotna puts past failures far behind her

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

THE year is almost over, Thanksgiving is around the corner and Jana Novotna has a few weeks off to decide how to spend her \$500,000 (about £310,000) as the winner of the Chase Championships here. Her 76, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Mary Pierce rounded off one of the most successful seasons for women's tennis and a fascinating week in Madison Square Garden.

"We have been waiting a long time for this moment, where we see the changing of the generations," Novotna said.

"Women's tennis needed a boost and we needed the younger players. Now it makes it interesting for everyone to see the contrast in styles between the experienced players and the younger ones."

"The pity is that, while the players are doing their bit on



Novotna sheds a tear at her victory speech

the court, off court the promotion of the championships was not a conspicuous success. No more than half of the 18,000 seats at the Garden were full, while the matches were shown on the Madison Square Garden cable network, where only 68,000 tuned in to see Pierce and Hingis.

Pierce's defeat of Martina Hingis earlier in the week was one of the best matches of the tournament. Indeed, the event had been open from the start and, with the chance to dent a few reputations, each player took her turn in the spotlight.

The championships also emphasised the fact that women's tennis is enjoying a revival. Hingis has won three of the most of it.

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ORYX

GOLF

Montgomerie makes first move towards his American dream

EARLY in 1989 I placed a telephone call to a hotel in Portugal where Colin Montgomerie, who was then a 25-year-old in his second full season as a professional, was competing in a tournament. As he did, and still does, for that matter, Montgomerie talked and talked and talked.

There is no other golfer in the world who converses as articulately as Montgomerie and discussions around the family dining table in years gone by must have been quite animated, because Douglas Montgomerie, Colin's brother, and James, their father, can talk, too. Hind legs and donkeys come to mind.

The subject for some of our telephone conversation those years ago was whether Montgomerie, a middle-class, former public schoolboy, could cut the mustard among the more worldly-wise. If less expensively educated professionals. "Ach yes," Montgomerie, not betraying a moment of self-doubt, said. He uses the word "ach", if there is such word, in the way most Scots use the word "och". "I am tough enough. If I had had a soft middle-class upbringing, it will

John Hopkins feels that major success is imminent for the Scot after tasting victory in the US

not stop me becoming a good golfer."

I put the telephone down, my head ringing with the feeling that Montgomerie would amount to more than just an occasional winner of tournaments in Europe. This view was confirmed when he won that tournament in Portugal by 11 strokes and he has continued the winning habit to an exceptional degree since. In the past month alone, for example, he has captured a fifth successive Order of Merit in Europe, which no one else has done. Nine days ago he won the Hassan Trophy in Rabat, Morocco, a silly, end-of-season bonanza for a few, the winner receiving a jewel-encrusted dagger.

Many pros suffer a setback after

their initial success and, if they avoid that pitfall, then the longer their career the greater the chance of a slump. Montgomerie has had neither. He is the only golfer of the modern European era who has continued to improve as each year of his professional career passes.

Winning the individual title at the World Cup at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, on Sunday marks another step forward in as much as it is the first time that Montgomerie has won an event in the United States.

The US has been a bogey for Montgomerie for no apparent reason. He likes the US, studied there and has a powerful and accurate game that is ideally suited to many of its courses. Before Sunday, though, he had never tasted victory, having been beaten in play-offs for two major championships and finished second or third in two more. On Sunday he laid the bogey in style, each of his pars three rounds being 66, six under par.

Montgomerie has few of the fetishes that afflict modern golfers. He is not unduly concerned about his fitness and, by the standards of many players, he scarcely practises. The formula clearly works. In events at Stalley Hall in June and Druid's Glen in July, he can scarcely have played better. In between, he came second to Ernie Els in the US Open.

A few weeks ago Montgomerie decided not to commit himself to playing significantly more in the US next year. Mark McCormack, the agent, and Johnnie Miller, the television commentator and former Open champion, were two men who suggested that he was good enough to win major championships without leaving Europe.

Reassurances from knowledgeable men such as these may have been sufficient to boost Montgomerie's confidence, which, in turn, may be why he won at Kiawah Island last week. This victory could open the floodgates for Montgomerie and launch him on a new chapter of success. All that confidence he demonstrated down a crackling telephone line in 1989 may be about to be borne out.

JOHN HOPKINS



meets a woman providing support in a man's world

Of the 180 professional golfers in southern Spain who are competing for the right to play on the European Tour in 1998, Christophe Pottier, a 26-year-old Frenchman, is the one that is different. The person caddying for him, and inevitably a couple of yards behind him here at the PGA qualifying school in San Roque, is a woman, the only one fulfilling such a role in a world populated by men with weather-beaten faces and grass-stained trainers.

Cecil Gillot is a slim, vibrant 25-year-old who has lived with Pottier for seven years and caddies for him as often as she can spare the time from her English studies at the Sorbonne in Paris. She is slight, elf-like almost, and her small face framed by black hair is emphasised by the peak of her long, black cap and the burlesque of Pottier.

"I have limited technical skills as a caddie," Gillot said. "I am not like Fanny Sunesson. I do not read greens or do yardages. He likes to do that sort of thing himself — it is part of his routine. But obviously I know Christophe well and I am concerned about him. He knows I care so much. He has said he can concentrate better when I am caddying for him.

"Because of my status, I can say things to him that no one else can say. A caddie who does not know him can quickly irritate him. He might say something like 'OK, you have had two double-boogies, you must fight now.' That is obvious and it is precisely the sort of thing that he does not want to hear."

There are those who believe that love, though it can often inspire,



Gillot lends a sympathetic ear to the struggling Pottier

can also sometimes confuse. There is a line between supporting your partner in everything by being alongside and supporting from behind the ropes. Einar Montgomerie is an example of the latter, as is Laura Norman, Greg's wife, and Brenda Cepelak, Nick Faldo's companion. Gillot, however, is of the same persuasion as Jarno Sandelin's girlfriend, Linda Lundgren, and Jean Van de Velde's wife, Brigitte.

"My opinion is that it is very important for a woman to be there," Gillot said. "Jean [Van de

Velde] would have achieved nothing if his wife had not done everything for him. She caddied for him for a while, organised his life off the course. Now she follows him every step of the way. She is on the course each day. I don't see how you can be in love with someone without wanting to share their passion all the time. If it is a part of their life, it is a part of your life."

Dealing with success is easy. "When Christophe plays well, there is nothing to say afterwards," she said. Dealing with failure is

'He has said that he can concentrate better when I am caddying for him'

harder. Pottier has not played well in Spain. Rain and lightning have caused delays and the fourth round will be finished this morning, after which the cut will be made and the leading 70 will play one more round, if possible. Pottier will not be among them. At present, he is 17 over par, 26 strokes behind Robert-Jan Derkens, the tournament leader.

"It was no surprise," Gillot said, smiling. "We are trying not to kill ourselves. When you are plus nine after the first round, it is very difficult to concentrate for the rest of the week. I know a little technically. I know that this week his posture has been bad, he has the ball too far to the left, his stance is too narrow. He has bad days



HUNTINGDON



Montgomerie with the World Cup trophy he won on Sunday

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RUGBY LEAGUE
Leeds offer Murray role of head coach

ICE HOCKEY

Scoring spree is quickly forgotten

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AFTER enjoying a goal-scoring spree on Saturday, life went back to something approaching normality in the Superleague on Sunday. Two goaltenders — Piero Greco of Sheffield Steelers, and Grant Sjerven, of Manchester Storm — kept the opposition scoreless, while Bracknell Bees beat Nottingham Panthers 3-1, which is the sort of scoreline that has become the norm.

There was never much to choose between the teams at Bracknell. Jeff Johnstone scored for the Bees in the first period and Blake Knox for the Panthers in the second. Wayne Buesis restored Bracknell's lead early in the final session and, with Nottingham deploying an extra forward in a late bid for the equaliser, Wayne Crawford shot into an empty net with eight seconds remaining.

It was a weekend of contrasting fortunes for Greco. At Basingstoke on Saturday, he had a shaky first period, lost his composure and was replaced by his back-up for the rest of the game in which the Bison beat the Steelers 10-7.

On Sunday, he saved all 39 shots that the Cardiff Devils fired at him, while his colleagues scored eight goals to hand the Devils their heaviest defeat of the season.

Sjerven had a far easier evening than Greco in Manchester Storm's 6-0 win. Newcastle Cobras managed only 19 shots on goal and once again showed a lack of discipline. Rob McCaig, making only his second appearance for them, was ejected early in the second period for fighting and, after their 64 minutes in penalties at Nottingham on Saturday, they racked up 70 on Sunday. They remain rooted to the bottom of the table.

While the Superleague saw a sudden increase in goals this weekend, the British National League, which is usually dominated by high-scoring forwards, featured two games on Sunday that were decided by a single goal. Guildford Flames beat Telford Tigers and Kingston Hawks beat Fife Flyers. In both games, the only goal came with less than six minutes remaining.

CRICKET: WEST INDIES' WARM-UP MATCH CANCELLED AFTER HOTEL DISPUTE

Lloyd checks out new itinerary

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN RAWALPINDI

They will then go back to Karachi, 125 miles away, where they will practise tomorrow, travelling on Thursday to Rawalpindi, where the second Test begins on Saturday.

"The hotel was not good enough," Lloyd said, "and with the game being so close to the Test we decided not to take any chances." It means that West Indies go into the last two Tests having had no first-class cricket since the thumping defeat by an innings and 19 runs, at Peshawar. The players, already short of form, are now short of cricket as well.

Lloyd informed the Pakistan board of his decision and also notified Steve Camacho, the chief executive of the West Indies Board of Control, before the coach turned round. Hyderabad would not be the first choice of venue for the team as it regroups before the Test series resumes. It

has none of the creature comforts — if that is the right phrase — of other cities in Pakistan and its choice of hotels is limited.

The Pakistan authorities were surprised by Lloyd's decision. Although the West Indies manager understood that his team was booked into the Indus Hotel, adjacent to the Niaz Stadium, local officials said that the plans had changed six weeks before the start of the tour because the Indus failed to guarantee sufficient space and the match clashed with a convention there.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board was informed of the plan," Yar Mohammad Salongi, president of the Hyderabad Cricket Association, said, "and the home board conveyed this message to their West Indies counterparts. West Indies did not have any grounds to complain, as they had agreed to a change in accommodation." He pointed out that the India team stayed at the Indus for a one-day international on September 28.

Stewart eager to promote school ties

Pat Gibson hears the ECB plans to improve English cricket at all levels

cricket is dead in schools," he said, "but that is complete and utter rubbish. In the past five years, more schools have been playing cricket than there were in the previous five years. It is now played in 70 per cent of primary schools and 68 per cent of secondary schools."

People also think that

youngsters do not play cricket. That is rubbish as well. Never in the history of the game have so many youngsters played cricket as they do now."

The problem, as Stewart has long contended, is that the standard of cricket has never matched the level of participation and that is what he has been trying to address since he gave up the England manager's job five years ago. "The traditional image is of a game to be enjoyed by 22 people who go out on to the village green, have strawberries and cream for tea and then down six pints of bitter," Stewart said.

"Long may that aspect of it continue, but we must now have a structure that allows us to compete equally and successfully all the way to the highest levels of the game. It is not sufficient just to play; the object must be to win cricket matches at all levels."

First things first, however,



THE huge cranes towering over Lord's in the November gloom, as the new grandstand takes shape, were a sign of the times. The easy-going image of English cricket was out; the concept of a modern game thrusting towards the 21st century was in.

Over at the Nursery End, in the bright new offices of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Micky Stewart, the director of coaching and excellence, was handing over his torch to Hugh Morris, who is succeeding him as technical director.

He did it by announcing the publication of two new coaching manuals aimed specifically at primary and secondary schools, and outlining his vision of the game designed to raise the standard of English cricket from bottom to top. He linked the initiative at the grassroots to the national coaching scheme, the proposed introduction of premier leagues, the England age-group sides and the full Test team.

Stewart, who is retiring at the age of 65, began by demolishing a couple of myths. "People say that

hence the coaching manuals produced by the ECB's national coaches, Gordon Lord, Bob Carter, Graham Saville, John Abrahams, Tim Bonn and Paul Farbrace.

The first manual, *Time to Play*, is designed to introduce youngsters to the game at primary school. "I had not realised," Stewart said, "that 85 in every 100 primary school teachers are ladies, so they have to feel as comfortable teaching cricket as they might do teaching rounders."

The second, *Cricket Coach's Manual*, is intended to be useful to physical education teachers who may have very little knowledge of the game, yet still be flexible enough for those who know a lot. "It's been a real eye-opener to me to see the amount of time, effort and enthusiasm that's gone into these publications from all the coaches," Morris said. "We

have got a vibrant game at school level, despite what people think, and they will help to carry that forward."

Richard Peel, the controller of communications for BBC News, is to be the ECB's new director of corporate affairs.

North-South were playing a five-card major system in which the One No-Trump response could be somewhat weaker than in Acol. Hence North's raise to Two No-Trump showed 18-19 points, allowing South to bid game.

Madsen passed the first test when he led the eight of hearts rather than a diamond; South took it in dummy and tried the ace of diamonds, then the queen of diamonds. Madsen ducked, his second good play. With the bad split revealed declarer switched to clubs, and rati the ten. Madsen made his third fine play by ducking this trick; he won the club continuation with the queen to press on with hearts. South won in hand to lead his spade towards the ace-queen.

Madsen contributed the jack, and discarded the king of spades under the ace. If he had not made this play declarer could have cashed dummy's third heart and exited with a spade, forcing West to concede the ninth trick. But as it was East was able to win the third round of spades, and the defence had three more winners to take.

Note that if Madsen takes the second round of diamonds or the first round of clubs it gives declarer the extra entry to hand that he needs to establish and cash two club tricks. That would have been enough for his contract.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CLARABELLA

- a. An organ stop
- b. A beautiful woman
- c. A pansy

MICHIGANDER

- a. A small male goose
- b. A person from Michigan
- c. A stochastic process

MORENA

- a. A cherry
- b. A cleft in a glacier
- c. A chief

DULCIANA

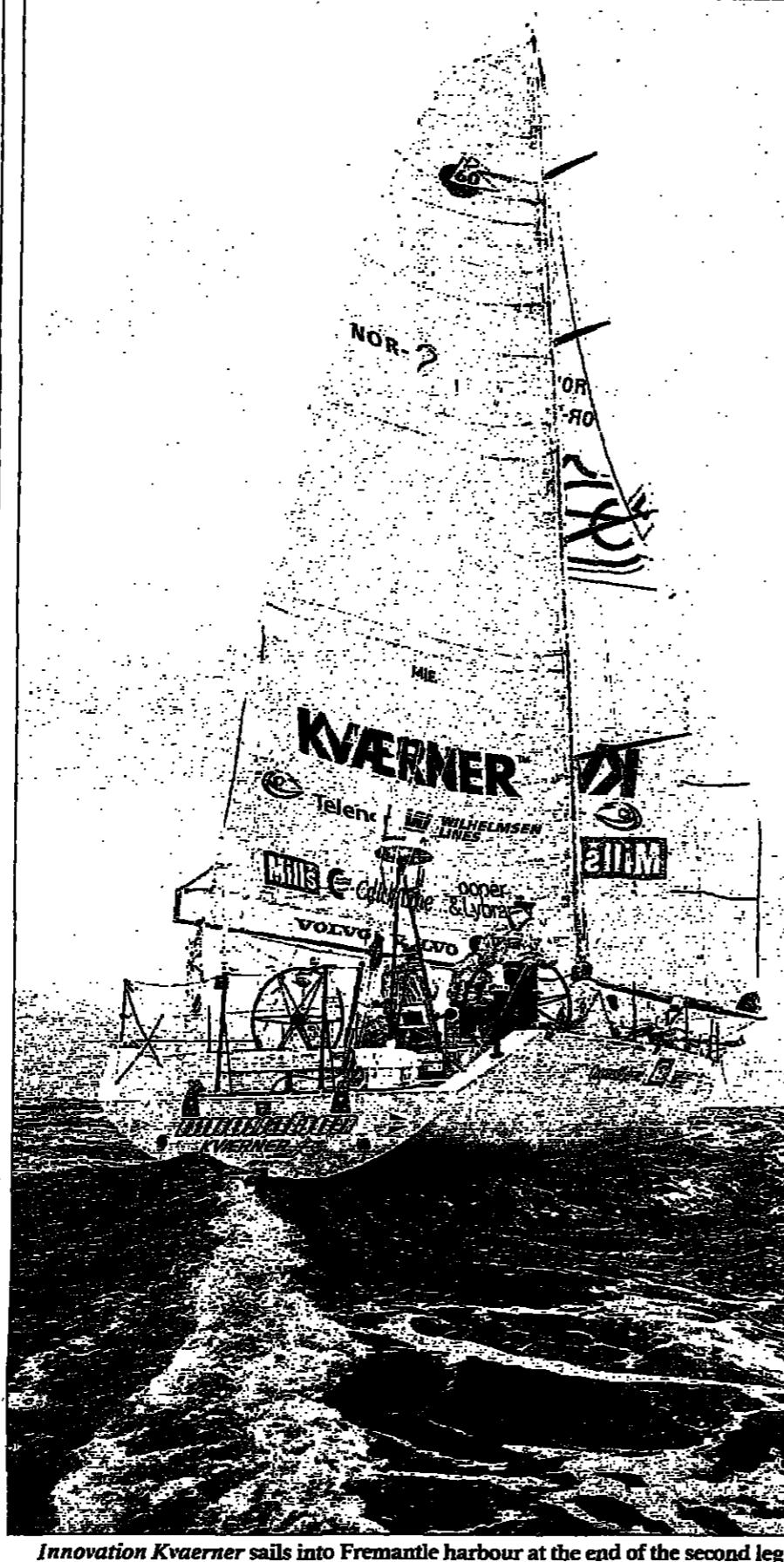
- a. A prostitute
- b. Honey and cream
- c. An organ stop

Answers on page 50

Norwegian ready to assume leading role in Whitbread race

Frostad sails out of hell in triumph

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT



Innovation Kvaerner sails into Fremantle harbour at the end of the second leg

They played *Bat Out of Hell* by Meat Loaf for Knut Frostad's crew, on Innovation Kvaerner, yesterday afternoon as the Norwegian boat reached smartly into the harbour here against an unseasonal grey sky to take second place in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Frostad, the youngest skipper in the race, is thus alone in having compiled two top-three finishes, having come third in Cape Town. He should be confirmed today as the overall leader after two legs provided Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, in *Silk Cut* gets ahead of Paul Cayard, in *EF Language*.

Yet Frostad and his crew seemed subdued — perhaps ominously so as far as their rivals are concerned. Success is definitely not going to their heads and the focus on winning is stronger than ever. "It's too close in this race to start feeling comfortable — I think everyone has to improve and do well all the way to the end," Frostad said.

A song about getting out of hell was not inappropriate. The crew on Kvaerner had the haunted and exhausted look of men who have sailed on the limits for too long. The Whitbread veterans among them — notably Jim Cisse, the watch captain, and Marcel van Triest, the navigator — had no doubt that this had been the windiest leg of any race they have sailed in.

Closed talk of the biggest waves he had ever seen. At one point Kvaerner was driven at almost uncontrollable speed under storm spinnaker for half an hour, when the average wind speed was 57 knots. During that spell there was so much water cascading over the bow that the instrument displays on the mast were unreadable for much of the time.

On another occasion Kvaerner plunged into a wave and buried herself up to 15 feet back from bow. When she recovered the crew discovered the pulpit had been ripped clean off by the impact. Like *Silk Cut*, the Norwegians almost lost all the sails stored on the weather rail when they, and most of the stanchions they were attached to, were swept overboard.

The big drama, though, was what Frostad believes to have been a collision with a whale eight days ago, when the yacht

was making about 20 knots in 30 knots of breeze. There is normally a lot of noise and crashing about at those speeds, but this was different. "It felt like dumping the boat on land or crashing a car," Frostad said.

The impact from the creature, which seemed to have

under way, should be completed within a week.

Kvaerner's consistent performance has much to do with Van Triest's expertise. Along with Andrew Cape on *Toshiba*, which finished in third place for the leg last night, he is considered to be the best of the present crop of Whitbread navigators.

Early on in this leg, after *Swedish Match* had already got away, Van Triest made the important call to get south in time to steal second place from *Cayard*. From then on Kvaerner was never under real threat from those astern of her.

Paul Standridge, meanwhile, can rightly feel satisfied with a podium placing at the end of his first leg as skipper

of *Toshiba*. In achieving that, he has shown to be exaggerated many of the long lists of shortcomings about the campaign enumerated by the boat's outgoing skipper, Chris Dickson, who resigned in Cape Town.

After the sixth place on the first leg, *Toshiba* remains in sixth place overall here, but it is within two points of

Merit Cup in fifth place and only four points behind *Swedish Match*, in fourth.

Standridge brought in a much happier crew than Dickson docked with in South Africa, while his boat displayed many of the same war

wounds as *Kvaerner*. He feels he can be a serious contender.

been travelling at right angles to the boat sheared through three ring frames and seriously weakened the structure of the bow, forcing Frostad to sail a more conservative second half of the leg. Luckily, however, the hull remained intact and comprehensive repairs, which are already

WHITEBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE LATEST POSITIONS

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THE TIME
ABITA
MAS

Vanity fare no longer a female prerogative

Now that even men crave a face so smooth that it has fewer flaws than a bungalow, beauty is no longer just a female obsession. Until recently, a man's bathroom cabinet contained four razor blades, a shirt-collar stiffener for scooping our earwax, and some Tippex correction fluid for crucial last-minute office chores, such as whitening a stained shirt collar. Grooming was something for sweaty ponies.

But nowadays the same men who once spent Saturday afternoons buying power drills go to try the latest banana-and-guava moisturiser in Body Shop instead. To look back on it, it is very possible that the British male's famous stiff upper lip has always owed less to sang-froid than to insufficient applications of moisturiser; maybe the British Empire was built on nothing more intrepid than dry skin.

Many men now even wax their

chests. I did it once, for purely professional purposes (Not professional as in journalistic, not as in Chippendales). If you want to get a flavour of just how much chest-waxing hurts, try this experiment at home: manacle yourself to a wall, superglue Desert Orchid's rump to your chest and then shout "giddy-up". That's how much.

So, given men's vanity, why was last night's *Trade Secrets* (BBC2), containing tips from beauty therapists, aimed exclusively at women? A few of the tips were unisex, such as: "Never throw away your old pads. Keep them in the fridge and use them as eye pads when your eyes are tired or really puffy." So was the home-made skin-toner, made by blending tomatoes, cucumber and vodka, but most men would probably want to taste it to make sure that they had got the proportions right. Applying mashed chickpeas to your face sounded too high a price to pay for

ingrowing hairs, although I might remember to polish my nails with smoker's toothpaste if they ever become that dirty (how do women get their nails so filthy?).

As for the tip about making your lipstick last longer by "layering it with nail", it explained why men who have embraced moisturisers, toners and depilation have steered clear of lipstick. I think men would need a 13-part series devoted just to lipstick-applying to get the hang of even the basics of lip-puckering and pressing-together. "Layering it with talc" would require a second series.

But the reason why men haven't gone the whole hog, vanity-wise, came in the programme's final tip of tips: "Avoid tea, coffee, avoid hot spicy foods, avoid alcohol, avoid tight clothing. So really, avoid everything that you enjoy." Men, because of their genetic make-up,

REVIEW

Joe Joseph



are forced to eat curries and drink alcohol, especially on any day that happens to end with the letter "y".

But male vanity is not altogether new: 18th-century dandies put dowdy English women to shame, and until puritan Victorians came tut-tutting along, every English gentleman would sooner go hungry than skimp on his supplies of powder puffs, rouge, curling irons, oils, creams and eyebrow

blackeners. Nowadays, men who still nurse such cravings find a useful outlet in pantomime. We saw them all in their pancake and powdered wigs in *Pantoland*, a new four-part Channel 4 series that is lifting the curtain on the only bunch of actors who regard it a professional success to be boozed off the stage by 500 excited year-olds. "Behind you!" is as close to "Bravo!" as they get.

Shows such as *Cinderella, Snow White and Mother Goose* provide work every winter to a changing constellation of young actors and dancers, although the stars remain much the same: Danny La Rue, Matthew Kelly, John Inman, and Tony Blair's estranged brother, Lionel — his perma-grin making him ever-prepared for those unexpected photographers who presumably pester pantom stars. Lionel Blair is a man who is always saying cheese. And for the most part, acting it, too.

The silver-haired Paul Elliott, a sort of panto mogul, puts on 20 productions a year, having spent most of the summer cajoling people such as La Rue to spend his winter in Sheffield: Danny, to his credit, didn't crease up his face in horror — maybe for fear of cracking his foundation. But he implored Paul: "Next year, please God, maybe Southampton." It's a business that turns over £8 million annually. A lot is at stake, so rehearsal schedules are punishing.

We saw Lionel, without using his hands, rehearsing a mesmerising sequence from *Snow White* in which he manoeuvres a large purple balloon down Inman's chest, under Inman's legs, and then up Inman's back. It's very possible that Blair is one of the few men in Britain capable enough to do this. He is almost certainly the only person who would want to.

Although fascinating, Equinox: When Pigs Ruled The World (Channel 4) was also confusing. The beasts who roamed across the globe 250 million years ago, and who were recreated here using Jurassic Park-style animatronic technology, were proto-mammals called lystrosaurs. They weren't pigs at all. They didn't look anything like pigs. They were roughly the size of pigs and "they eked out a pig-like existence, anything they could find". So why the title? Because, according to Sara Ramsden, who was the commissioning editor at Channel 4: "We're up against tough competition in our new Monday slot. Anything that makes our programmes more accessible can only be a good thing."

So look out for tonight's Channel 4 weather forecast: it's the show in the TV listings that's called "A close-up of Isabelle Adjani, naked."

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- 9.25 Style Challenge (581125)
- 10.30 Kiltory (T) (1229057)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7919088)
- 10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7656723)
- 11.35 Change That (206330)
- 12.00 News (T) (609361)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (T) (1010359)
- 12.35 Give Us A Clue (2065458)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) and weather (589303)
- 1.30 Regional News (84179670)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (5837835)
- 1.45 Neighbours (57419800)
- 2.10 Snooker: UK Championship Round-four action from Preston (5551885)
- 3.30 Playdays (890283) 3.50 Arthur (8911330) 4.15 Fudge (7173570) 4.35 "I'll Never Forget You" (5262293) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5267816) 5.10 Byker Grove (T) (911886)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (130532)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) (757)
- 6.30 Regional News (449)
- 7.00 Holiday Jilt Dando motors in Arizona; Zoe Ball samples waterparks in Cork; Moira Dan visits a dog-friendly hotel in Worcestershire; Sunkha Guha takes a family trip to Sicily, and John Holdsworth is in Jersey (T) (3651)
- 7.30 EastEnders (T) (903)
- 8.00 Mystery with Carol Vorderman: A recovery from cancer that defied medical explanation and a claim that Friday the 13th really is unlucky (T) (9399)
- 8.30 A Question of Sport Guests are England defender Stuart Pearce, golfer Lee Westwood, rugby union star Neil Jenkins and England cricketer Graham Thorpe (T) (8108)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News Followed by Regional News and weather (4748)
- 9.30 One Foot in the Grave Victor and Margaret agree to part for a friend (T) (76564) WALES: 9.30 Week In, Week Out (76564) 10.00 One Foot in the Grave (55125) 10.30 Joanne Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon (8128353) 11.45 FILM: Sam Time, Next Year (1979) (722808) 12.00 News (093026) 1.45 BBC News 24
- 10.00 Joanna Lumley in the Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon The actress and her cousin, nicknamed Maybe, go on a pilgrimage to the mysterious and beautiful country of Bhutan (T) (4744833)
- 11.20 Same Time, Next Year (1978) Bittersweet drama adapted from the Broadway smash with Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn playing an adulterous couple who fall in love on holiday, and carry on their affair for 25 years, meeting for only one week a year of illicit passion. Directed by Robert Mulligan (791903) WALES: FAIR: Invitational Cup 7.22am-2.20pm: Same Time Next Year
- 1.10am BBC News 24

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BBC2

- 6.00am Arts: The Leather Collection (44767) 6.30 Nathan the Wise (68818)
- 7.00 See Hear: Breakfast News (T and signing) (262657)
- 7.15 Telebabies (T) (4640800) 7.40 The Perils of Penelope Pitstop (T) (979841)
- 8.05 Blue Peter (T) (2712570) 8.25 Ceilidh Doku (T) (920583) 8.45 The Record (9370019)
- 9.10 Practicing Teacher (7692074) 9.25 See You, See Me (25816) 9.45 Numberline (4257459) 10.00 Telebabies (T) (80496)
- 10.30 Watch (4888467) 10.45 Science Zoo (217356) 10.50 Space Ark (7600938) 11.00 Magician (T) (1384651) 11.25 Home File (4467372)
- 12.00 See Hear (T) (52038)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (68670) 1.00 Fiddley Foodie Bird (T) (5820318) 1.10 The History Hour from Richmond (5016632)
- 2.10 Going, Going, Gone (62270583)
- 2.40 News (312628)
- 2.45 Westmaster Special with David Dimbleby Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, outlines his strategy for the economy (T) (484616)
- 4.45 Snooker: UK Championship Round-four coverage (1419583)
- 6.00 Heartbreak High (991477)
- 6.45 Snooker: UK Championship Round-up of today's action (123039)
- 7.30 From the Edge Reports on issues affecting disabled people (545)
- 8.00 Top Gear: Rally Report Final day highlights (40111)
- 8.30 Food and Drink An unusual twist on the traditional Christmas lunch; Jill Goodwin and Oz Clarke sample wines under 24 (T) (6748)



Chief Nana Kwame Nkrumah XI (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Timewatch Investigation into the often-ignored black involvement in slavery. Chief Nana Kwame Nkrumah XI denies his ancestors had any involvement in the evil trade (T) (686944)
- 9.50 Back to the Floor: Crawling About Company boss Peter Collett returns to the front line of pest control (T) (340019)
- 10.20 Best Friends Two primary school pals tell the story of their camaraderie (T) (937854)
- 10.30 Newsnight (T) (401212)
- 11.15 Snooker: UK Championship Highlights of the final best-of-17 fourth-round matches (736570)
- 11.35 Weather (T) (259361)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour (7101442)
- 12.25pm Weather (777442)
- 12.30 Learning Zone: The Making of Germania (5349236) 12.35 Great Civilisations (5783607) 1.00 Sevilla: The Edge of Europe (54539) 1.20 Seville Gateway to the Indies (60689) 2.00 Schools: Business Studies (479797) 4.00 Languages: Deutsch Plus 5-8 (60249)
- 5.00 Career Moves — Conservation (41713)

SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00am Sports Centre (22320) 7.30 League Review (71817) 8.00 Sunday League (71817) 8.30 Radio 1 Live (71817) 8.45 Match of the Month (71817) 9.00 Sunday League (71817) 9.30 Fish TV (501912) 9.45 Football League Review (624412) 10.00 Cricket: World Masters (7464787) 1.00pm Motor Sport (678478) 4.00 WTA Kremlin Cup (71817) 8.00 Tennis (71817) 8.30 FA Cup First Round Replay—Leyton Orient vs. Charlton (2274633)
- 7.00am Athletics (2214491) 7.30 Sports Review (71817) 8.00 Racing News (728954) 8.30 Fish TV (501912) 8.45 Football League Review (624412) 10.00 Cricket: World Masters (7464787) 1.00pm Motor Sport (678478) 4.00 WTA Kremlin Cup (71817) 8.00 Tennis (71817) 8.30 FA Cup First Round Replay—Leyton Orient vs. Charlton (2274633)
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- 7.00pm SKY SPORTS 2
- 7.00am Athletics (2214491) 7.30 Sports Review (71817) 8.00 Racing News (728954) 8.30 Fish TV (501912) 8.45 Football League Review (624412) 10.00 Cricket: World Masters (7464787) 1.00pm Motor Sport (678478) 4.00 WTA Kremlin Cup (71817) 8.00 Tennis (71817) 8.30 FA Cup First Round Replay—Leyton Orient vs. Charlton (2274633)
- 7.00pm SKY SPORTS 3
- 7.00pm Athletics (2214491) 7.30 Sports Review (71817) 8.00 Racing News (728954) 8.30 Fish TV (501912) 8.45 Football League Review (624412) 10.00 Cricket: World Masters (7464787) 1.00pm Motor Sport (678478) 4.00 WTA Kremlin Cup (71817) 8.00 Tennis (71817) 8.30 FA Cup First Round Replay—Leyton Orient vs. Charlton (2274633)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

- 6.00pm Goldfields and the Three Bears (1985) (2507018) 7.45 The Thief Who Came to Dinner (1973) (5146709) 8.30 An American Christmas Carol (1979) (3337222) 11.15 Panic in the Sky (1962) 12.00 The Devil's Disciple (1972) (418137) 3.00 Little Glands (1994) 5.00 Goldfields and the Three Bears (1985) (78039) 7.00 Panic in the Sky (1962) (50208) 8.00 The Executioner (1989) (50208) 9.00 Death Wish (1974) (50208) 11.20 The French Connection (1971) (202082)
- 12.20pm The Italian Job (1969) (50208)
- 2.00 Rockford Files (1974) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Benefit (1996) (50208)
- 6.00 Dead Man Walking (1995) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish (1974) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish II (1982) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish III (1985) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish IV (1987) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish V (1990) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish VI (1993) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish VII (1995) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish VIII (1997) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish IX (1998) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish X (1999) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XI (2000) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XII (2001) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XIII (2002) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish XIV (2003) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish XV (2004) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish XVI (2005) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XVII (2006) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XVIII (2007) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XIX (2008) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish XX (2009) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish XXI (2010) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish XXII (2011) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XXIII (2012) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XXIV (2013) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XXV (2014) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish XXVI (2015) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish XXVII (2016) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish XXVIII (2017) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XXIX (2018) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XXX (2019) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XXXI (2020) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish XXXII (2021) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish XXXIII (2022) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish XXXIV (2023) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XXXV (2024) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XXXVI (2025) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XXXVII (2026) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish XXXVIII (2027) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish XXXIX (2028) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish XL (2029) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XLI (2030) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XLII (2031) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XLIII (2032) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish XLIV (2033) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish XLV (2034) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish XLVI (2035) (50208)
- 4.00 Death Wish XLVII (2036) (50208)
- 6.00 Death Wish XLVIII (2037) (50208)
- 8.00 Death Wish XLIX (2038) (50208)
- 10.00 Death Wish L (2039) (50208)
- 12.00 Death Wish L (2040) (50208)
- 2.00 Death Wish L (2041) (50208)
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- 10.00 Death Wish L (2051) (50208)
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